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Volume 22 Number 10

Seven Lakes, North Carolina 27376

March 16, 2007

Polocrosse @ Seven Lakes



Dan Old and Liana Fletcher try their hand at Polocrosse in a clinic hosted by Seven Lakes Stables and the Carolina Polocrosse Club. Clinicians Ryan Murphy and Sara Ferebee taught a class of six experienced and seven inexperienced players on Sunday, March 11.

School budget up 16.5%

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Introducing next year's proposed \$27 million Moore County Schools [MCS] budget at the Monday, March 12, regular Board of Education monthly meeting, Dr. Susan Purser, School Super-

intendent, said, "The budget is focused on our core business; our students and staff. This budget is ambitious but earned."

"Over the last two years," continued Purser, "we have been conservative with the budget. This is the first time I have

brought forward programs and a request for an increase, the bulk of which will fund new Smart technology classrooms, two new school buses, and installation of two-way radios in all buses."

The Superintendent's 2007-2008 Budget Proposal of \$26,956,831 represents a 16.5% increase over the previous year. The proposed capital outlay budget is \$1,718,130, a 34.5% increase.

Purser's presentation highlighted the needs and suggestions identified by task forces in four areas of particular concern; literacy, athletics, technology, and alternative education.

Moore County School enrollment (See "School board," p. 36)

Watch website for election results

Both Seven Lakes Landowners Associations will finalize their Board of Directors elections before the March 30 issue of *The Times* goes to press — the West side this Sunday and the North and South Sides next Sunday.

The Times will post election results on our new and improved website at www.sevenlakestimes.net as soon as they are available. You can register for email news updates on the website and debate local issues in *Times' Forums* — an online extension of our Opinion section. Visit www.sevenlakestimes.net to register.

SLLA Budget debate still testy

by Greg Hankins,
Times Editor

The Fiscal Year 2007-2008 budget for the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] continues to be a matter of hot debate, even though it was approved by the Board of Directors meeting in Executive Session two weeks ago.

SLLA President Don Truesdell explained at the start of a Wednesday, March 14, Work Session that he and other board members were not aware when they tabled the budget discussion on February 28 that the budget needed to be approved that night in order to be included in Annual Meeting packets mailed to

landowners.

Recognizing that some landowners believed they would be allowed an opportunity to comment on the budget before it was passed, Truesdell told those who attended the work session: "I need to reassure you that the budget is simply a forecast and can be changed by this board or the next board."

He then opened the floor to landowners who wanted to comment on the budget.

Charlie Oliver, a member of Treasurer Steve Hudson's Finance Committee, said his review of SLLA accounts back to 1999 reveals a community that

(See "Work session," p. 34)

Hudson ordered to retract report

by Greg Hankins,
Times Editor

Three members of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board of Directors voted for the removal of Steve Hudson as Treasurer in a special board meeting on Tuesday, March 6.

The Board members were angered by a financial report that Hudson presented during the February 28 General Meeting of the Association. The report suggested that Community Manager Dalton Fulcher was responsible for several financial missteps.

Director Ed Nuti's motion to remove Hudson from the Treasurer's post failed when Director Jeff Herman proposed an alternative, namely, requiring that Hudson retract or correct his report in *The Seven Lakes Times* and at the upcoming SLLA Annu-

al Meeting on March 25.

The special board meeting was held in executive session; neither residents or *The Times* were invited to attend. This article is based on conversations *The Times* had with Hudson and Nuti during the past several days. SLLA President Don Truesdell told *The Times* he called the meeting to discuss Seven Lakes Country Club's driving range projects; Truesdell declined to discuss details of the meeting because it was an executive session. Both Herman and Secretary Michael Florence were also wary of discussing the particulars of a closed meeting.

Hudson told *The Times* that, once the discussion of the driving range was concluded, Herman told him that his financial committee report was "not appre-

(See "Hudson," p. 35)

Kiwanis serve 650-plus at Pancake Feast

by Rollin Tomberlin
Seven Lakes Kiwanis

The Seven Lakes Kiwanis pancake and sausage breakfast held Saturday, March 3, was the best ever according to Chairman Fred Seufert.

"We served more than 650 paid meals," Seufert said. "Plus we had an uncounted number of youngsters six and under that

participated on a no-charge basis. Additionally, the Boy Scout troop from the Methodist Church, who did yeoman-like duty bussing tables, also were fed without charge."

Seufert continued, "Our success can be attributed to the wonderful support of the Seven Lakes community and the down-

town business owners. The latter also generously underwrote forty-one ads for our placemats."

The Kiwanis event included a fifty-fifty raffle promotion with a prize award of \$270. Northsider Elwood Henning was the winner. Kiwanian wives enthusiastically participated in a successful bake-sale during the breakfast.



West End Scouts made hardworking busboys at the Annual Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast on March 3.

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Few Seven Lakers are aware of the magnitude of the Kiwanis charity works. Sizeable awards are routinely made to more than a dozen organizations; Moore Buddies, Kids-in-Crisis, the Coalition, Project Linus, the Food Bank, Friend-to-Friend, Hospice, NAMI, and many others. Special contributions have been made for books for the West End Elementary School library, and also for their McGruff safety program. Moneys have recently been given for support of the Backpack Pals, weekend backpack program at the school.

Kiwanis also sponsors Terrific Kids, Aktion Club, Key Clubs, and Woodworking for Kindergartners. They give special

awards to West Pines Middle School eighth graders and West End Elementary School fifth graders. Kiwanis also supply manpower for FirstHealth's Teddy Bear Days.

Routine service activities include manpower for the Blood Mobile collections, weekly clean-up of Seven Lakes Drive, sponsorship of the local twice-monthly Bingo games, contribute personal products to Diversicare of Seven Lakes, and ring the bell for the Salvation Army.

This dynamic organization is always seeking new members, both men and women. The Kiwanis meet weekly on Tuesdays at 11:30 am at the Seven Lakes Country Club.

West End United Methodist Men

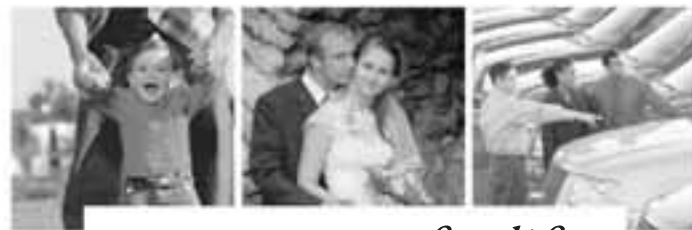


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PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Issue	Deadline
March 30	March 23
April 13	April 6
April 27	April 20
May 11	May 4
May 25	May 18

County approves new SLCC driving range

by Greg Hankins,
Times Editor

Seven Lakes Country Club [SLCC] has the county approval it needs to build a new driving range inside the elbow of Devonshire Avenue as it crosses Sandham Court and Sherwood Road in Seven Lakes South.

The Moore County Planning Board approved, during its regular meeting on Thursday night, March 8, a conditional use permit the Club needed to construct the new range on the 7.5 acre parcel.

Golf course uses are allowed within the Gated Community - Seven Lakes zoning designation that applies to the entire area inside the Southside gates. However, those uses are conditional — which means the planning board must approve the use based on a site plan and the testimony of citizens in favor of or opposed to the project.

Denny Galford spoke for Club in support of the plan, stressing the need to retire the existing SLCC driving range because of the danger that stray golf balls pose to traffic along Seven Lakes Drive. Addressing the impact on adjacent residential lots, "we feel, this being a golf community, we are not infringing on property values [of adjacent lots]," Galford said.

SLCC Board President Dick Weber was on hand to answer questions, but did not address the

Planning Board.

The only other speaker was Southside resident Alan Shaw, who identified himself as one of the original developers of Seven Lakes.

Shaw asked the Planning Board to require that the Club submit its plans for approval by the Architectural Review Board [ARB] of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA]. Though he said that he supported the construction of the new range, Shaw said he was confident Seven Lakes South covenants apply to the parcel on which the Club plans to build the range — and that those covenants require review by ARB.

"I favor the driving range," Shaw told the Board. "It's a heck of a good idea. But if we allow the construction to start without review by ARB, then we are opening a can of worms that we may not be able to put back in the jar."

Planning Board Chairman Harry Huberth, after conferring with legal counsel, told Shaw the Planning Board did not have jurisdiction to impose the condition that he was requesting. "We don't have jurisdiction, that's the bottom line," Huberth said.

Although the SLLA Board has itself contended that the new driving range is subject to review by the ARB, no representative of the Association was on hand to offer comment or observe the

Planning Board's deliberations.

The planning staff recommended approval of the conditional use permit provided that the Club obtain permits from both the Army Corps or Engineers and the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources [NCDENR].

Planner Kathy Liles said there are wetlands on the proposed range in the vicinity of the tee box. She used photographs and a topographic map to demonstrate that those wetlands drain into a small creek which ultimately drains into Little River — an important source of drinking water. The property lies within a watershed protection area.

Galford told the Board that the Club is close to securing the needed permits from the

Corps and NCDENR.

Huberth asked whether it would be appropriate to add a condition that the irrigation system for the driving range include rain sensors to prevent watering during rain. Liles said that was within the board's purview, and that condition was added to the permit.

Board Vice Chairman Paul Hodges moved approval of the conditional use permit; Thomas Oldham seconded, and it was unanimously approved by Planning Board members.

Planner Liles told *The Times* that the county would issue a zoning permit to the club based on the Board's decision and that no other county permits will be needed for the club to proceed.

Seven Lakes South resident

Dave Kinney, a member of the Planning Board and also a member of Seven Lakes Country Club, recused himself while the board heard the matter.

After the meeting *The Times* asked planning Director Andrea Surratt how the Planning Board could require the Club to add rain sensors to its irrigation system yet lacked the power to require review of the project by the SLLA ARB Committee.

Surratt said the ability of the board to impose conditions was not absolute. "We couldn't require that you put a blue monkey in your front yard," she said, adding that she believed it was beyond the power of the Planning Board to require the Club to subject itself to the approval of the Association.

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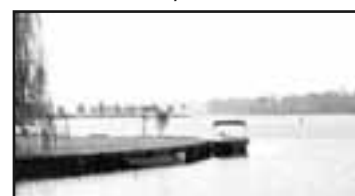
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Foxfire Village water system growing again

by Laura Douglas
Times Reporter

Foxfire is once again planning an expansion of its water system to serve landowners willing to be annexed into the Village.

A public hearing for annexation and resolutions to declare cost and order preliminary assessment rolls for Hoffman and Richmond Road water extensions was held at the Foxfire Village Council regular meeting on Tuesday, March 13.

The preliminary cost for the Richmond Road water extension was determined to be \$125,791 and will be divided among the fifteen lots adjacent to the project. The largest affected property encompasses 138 acres. Each owner will be assessed according to the size of their lot.

The preliminary cost for the Hoffman Road water extension was determined to be \$21,989. There are three land owners representing four affected lots. Project costs will be divided among the three owners by lot size.

Property owners will have ten years to pay the assessment, with an eight percent interest on balance applied each year.

Woodland Circle

Woodland Circle project manager Tom Collins reported two major accomplishments to date. First, the centerline of the entire length of the proposed road extension has been staked and marked. Second, a soils and wetlands investigation conducted by S&ME of Greensboro produced a Report of Subsurface Exploration detailing the findings of twenty-three borings taken from the proposed road bed.

"They found three wetland areas and we've applied to the Army Corps of Engineers to come in and designate how we should deal with them," said Collins. "Also," he continued, "a portion of the road is over the minimum six percent incline."

The soils and wetland report was a necessary step in moving the project forward, "We can now proceed with putting out to bid the civil engineering work. There must be at least three bids."

Noting deficiencies that have been present in bids for previous

projects and proposals, Collins addressed the council, "I would like to have a pre-bid process meeting with interested parties to make sure all items are included, and to make sure the budgets are realistic and give property owners good numbers on their assessments."

Foxfire Council Meeting

At present, no budget or assessment decisions have been made. Foxfire Village Mayor George Erickson said, "We'll have thorough discussions with owners prior to that point."

Collins proposed a pre-bid meeting date for April 3. A bid due date would follow on May 1, and the award of the civil drawings contract would be presented on May 15. Completion of the civil drawings would be due on Octo-

ber 15, allowing contractors four months to complete the work.

Once the final civil drawings and plans are received, reviewed, and approved, a bid date for civil engineers is proposed for November 15, and a start date of December 19.

Village expenses for the Woodland Circle Project, including centerline engineering, and soils and environmental reporting have totaled \$18,000 so far.

Finance

Councilman Wally Peckitt reported the General Fund balance at \$341,417; Capital Reserve Water Fund at \$106,000; and Police Supplemental Fund at \$17,665.

Peckitt's report identified a three to four thousand dollar deficiency in funding police salaries this year. Councilman Munro suggested the difference could be absorbed. "We used what we thought would be surplus dollars from (Police Chief) Rick Rhyne's retirement."

Turning discussion to the Village Green budget, Peckitt reported actual costs to date were \$668,000, half of which is reimbursable through the PARTF grant. He noted that the town's portion of expenses, \$333,000, is very low considering the quality of this asset. All current work on the Village Green is complete except for installation of the new sign.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Erickson presented the Council with nominations for the Steiner-Stempel Award and asked each to submit a vote. Carl Munro, noting his name among the candidates, declined the nomination as he is ineligible

as a sitting Councilman.

Foxfire Village, as a member in the North Carolina League of Municipalities [NCLM], will be represented by Village Clerk Janice Thomas in an upcoming Municipal Insurance Trust meeting to be held in Cary. Ericksen also encouraged fellow Councilmen to attend one of the regional meetings offered by NCLM.

A dedication ceremony of the Village Green is scheduled for Saturday, April 14, during the Foxfire Days celebration. In honor of the Village's Thirtieth Anniversary this year, Mayor Erickson suggested that a cocktail social hour be held that evening at the

(See "Foxfire," p. 37)

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Bolton Builders homes win at MCHBA show

Bolton Builders of Seven Lakes took two Home of the Year awards in the Moore County Home Builders Association competition.

Below, Michelle Bolton and Bolton superintendent Bascom Johnson show off an Award Of Excellence for the Campbell

Residence In Pinewild, and a Judge's Choice for the Harper Residence located in Seven Lakes West. The awards were presented during the March 1 preview showing of the Home and Garden Show at the Fair Barn in Pinehurst.

[Jodie Minniear photo.]



Don't forget the parade!



St. Patrick's Day Queen Allyson Neely

Join Queen Allyson Neely, eight-year-old daughter of John and Michele Neely, at the Seven Lakes St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday.

Joining Allyson will be eleven-year olds Charlotte Herbst, daughter of Tom and Diane Herbst, and Raley Carpenter, daughter of Tim and April Carpenter.

Make plans now to come out and give a cheer for these lovely young Seven Lakes ladies. The parade begins at 11:00 am at the North Clubhouse.

A Corned Beef Sandwich Luncheon will begin immediately following the parade at 11:45 am. Traditional Irish music, provided by The American Heritage Band under Larry McCune, and a quartet from the Golf Capital Chorus will entertain diners.

For tickets call Ginny Heerema at 673-5150, Maureen Malone at 673-2553, Judy Collins at 673-5505, or Peggy McCallum at 673-1506.

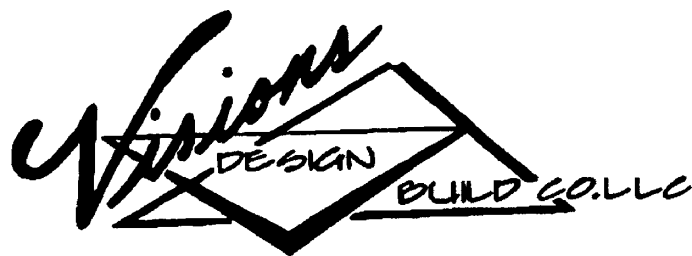
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Shaw suit gets its day in court . . . maybe

by Greg Hankins,
Times Editor

A long-standing Seven Lakes dispute may finally have its day in court on Monday — or be settled by the parties involved.

A suit filed by Southsider Alan Shaw, one of Seven Lakes' original developers, against the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA], Community Man-

ager Dalton Fulcher, and former SLLA Company Police Chief Dennis Lombard is on the Superior Court civil docket for this week. Jury selection was scheduled to get underway on Thursday morning, as *The Times* went to press.

But SLLA President Don Truesdell announced in a Work Session Wednesday night that the

board would be discussing the suit in an executive session later in the evening — suggesting a settlement may be in the works.

Shaw's suit alleges that Lombard's arrest of Shaw on felony larceny charges in 2003 amounted to "malicious prosecution." He is seeking both compensatory and punitive damages, claiming that the publicity surrounding

his arrest damaged his construction business.

Shaw originally filed the suit in May of 2004, withdrew it, and then refiled it last year.

The dispute began when Shaw, in the midst of a disagreement with a painter hired to do work on his Southside home, made it difficult for the workman to retrieve equipment

he had left at the Shaw residence. The painter appealed to Lombard for help; and, after a contentious conversation with Shaw, Lombard asked a magistrate to issue a warrant for Shaw's arrest.

The charges were later thrown out by District Court Judge Lee Gavin, who told Lombard the
(See "Shaw," p. 7)

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Murray & Company gets a 7 Lakes welcome

by Greg Hankins,
Times Editor

A few months ago, Murray & Company wasn't even a dream. Then sisters-in-law Megan and Jodie Murray got to talking over dinner.

And now they are co-owners of Seven Lakes' newest salon, located in the new Seven Lakes Professional Park Building on Seven Lakes Drive.

Both Megan and Jodie were trained at the prestigious Mitchell Salon in Cary, and both had several years experience, but thought they were years away from owning their own salon.

"That was a dream — something I thought I might be doing ten years from now," Megan told *The Times*. "Then we started talking over dinner, and I wanted to do something in skin care, and Jodie wanted to be more independent. We came up with the name and everything right there at the dinner table."

Once they cooked up the idea

of striking out on their own, Seven Lakes was the natural choice for a location. Though a New Yorker by birth, Megan has been in Seven Lakes for years, working for a while at Seven Lakes Country Club and then for nearly six years at Lakeside Square Barber Shop. Jodie was at the Hair Cuttery in Aberdeen.

Megan told *The Times* that she and Jodie "work really well together, we really complement each other." Jodie handles hair color and perms, while Megan handles the Salon's skin care services. Both cut hair and handle up-dos.

The skin care offerings include a European Facial — 60 minutes of deep cleansing, pH balancing, a steaming treatment mask, and moisturizing. There's a 30-minute Express Facial, and even a "facial" for your back!

One of the most popular skin care services is Microdermabrasion, Megan told *The Times*, a procedure that repairs sun damage, acne scarring, pigmentation problems, and lessens fine lines and wrinkles.

And Murray & Company is not just for the ladies. They count many men and children among their regulars.

In addition to hair and skin treatments, Murray & Company offers handmade gift items and jewelry, including pieces by Sandy Matlock.

They are also planning some innovative offerings, including a "Mini-Spa" Birthday Party for groups of up to up to seven girls. Designed for elementary and middle school ages, the party will include up-dos, nails, and mini-facials for each of the participants — plus pizza, cake, and a movie.

The Seven Lakes community has been extremely supportive, Jodie said. "Megan already had customers here, but I started from zero and I already have a

full book."

Even the marketing of the salon has been a family affair; Megan's brother, Daniel Westcott, developed all the marketing materials for the shop.

Megan and Jodie will celebrate the opening of their salon with an Open House on April 14 from Noon to 3:00 pm. Give-aways, raffles, refreshments, and lots of fun activities for the whole family are planned.

Murray and Company is located in the Seven Lakes Professional Park Building, just before the stables on Seven Lakes Drive.

The phone number is 673-3389.



Jodie and Megan Murray of Murray & Company in Seven Lakes.

Shaw

(Continued from page 6)

dispute with the painter was a civil matter that should never have appeared on a criminal court docket. But, according to Shaw's suit, the damage to his reputation — and his business — was already done.

If the parties do reach a settlement, it's unlikely Seven Lakes will ever know the cost of the settlement — a non-disclosure agreement is often standard in civil settlements.

The case will play itself out over the next few days — watch *The Times* website for updates: www.sevenlaketimes.net.



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Valenta, Kristek exchange wedding vows

Jill Marie Valenta and Timothy Ryan Kristek were married on November 25, at St. Joseph's Church in Endicott.

The bride is the daughter of Richard Valenta of Vestal, and Sally and Peter Yablonsky of Apalachin. The bridegroom is the son of Joe and Shirley Kristek of Seven Lakes West.

Krista Durcan, a friend of the bride served as maid of honor. Alyssa Kristek, a niece of the bridegroom, Lisa Tonkin, and Amy Wiggins served as bridesmaids. Hannah Mapstone, a cousin of the bride, served as flower girl.

Matt Groves, a friend of the groom served as best man. Jeff

Valenta and Joey Yablonsky, brothers of the bride, were ushers. Mike Kristek, Joe Kristek, Jr. and Scott Kristek, brothers of the bridegroom were groomsmen. Drew Hudock, a cousin of the bride, served as ring bearer.

The bride graduated from Vestal High School and SUNY Cortland. She attends University of Phoenix Online, and is a second grade teacher with Onslow County Schools in Swansboro, North Carolina.

The bridegroom graduated from Owego Free Academy. He is a Staff Sergeant with the United States Marine Corps, stationed at Camp Lejeune. He has been on active duty for nine years.



Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Ryan Kristek

Arty Eggs at Indigo's



West End Elementary Pre-Schooler Sean Keyser shows off an egg he decorated to benefit the WEE's art programs. Trudy Williams of Indigo's in Seven Lakes Plaza Shopping Center donated the eggs to Jill Hartsell's art classes.

Students will decorate the eggs and Seven Lakers will be able to purchase them starting next weekend at Indigo's Spring Open House.

All proceeds from the sale will be donated to the WEE Art Department. For more information, call Indigo's at 673-5085.

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In memory of . . .

John J. Ferency, 85, died at his Foxfire Village home on Tuesday, February 20.

Born and raised in Coraopolis, PA, Mr. Ferency served in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II. He worked as a regional sales manager for the Barber-Colman Company for twenty-five years. Later, he co-founded and co-owned two companies, Midwest Gear and Valley Gear, in Cleveland, Ohio. Mr. Ferency retired to Foxfire Village in 1980.

Survivors include his wife of fifty-five years, Helen, a son, James Ferency of New York, NY; a daughter, Marilyn Cullifer of Lake Lucerne, Ohio; a brother, Alfred Ferency of Export, PA, a sister, Eleanore Hockenberry of Sun City West, AZ. Three grandchildren also survive.

A private family service was held at Boles Funeral Home of Southern Pines on February 21.

Harold A. Wisell, 84, of West End, died Saturday, March 3, at HCR Manor Care in Pinehurst.

Born in Rutland, VT, Mr. Wisell attended Rutland High School. He was a ski instructor at Pico, and then at Bromley Mountain, where, in 1952, he became the director of the Ski School. Together with Ferdinand (Nundy) Bongartz, he operated the Ski-Light Lodge and Manchester Woodcraft. He also designed and constructed many houses in Vermont and North Carolina.

Mr. Wisell was preceded in death by his older brother, Charles Wisell.

Survivors include his wife Jean, of West End; a son, Kurt Wisell, of Queensbury, NY; a daughter, Gwenn Perkins, of Manchester, VT; and three granddaughters.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Foundation, 3800 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte, NC 28215.

A private memorial service will be held in the Spring.

Boles Funeral Home of Southern Pines assisted the family.

Alonzo "Slick" Moore, 65, of Eagle Springs, died Saturday, March 3, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

Mr. Moore is survived by three sons, Alonzo Goldston; Alvester

Moore of Troy; Tyrone Moore of Vass; six daughters, Elsie Spencer of Eagle Springs; Teresa Robinson of Candor; Angela Thomas of Bossier, LA; Sarah Alford of Pinehurst; Yvonne Marcus of Greensboro; and Carvella Fox of the home; twenty-eight grandchildren; thirty-five great-grandchildren; ten great-great-grandchildren. Also surviving are four sisters, Rachel Everett, Annie Gardner of Candor; Esther Amos of Biscoe; Josephine Jones of West End; three brothers, Thomas Moore of Jackson Springs; Haywood Moore Jr. of Madison, FL; and Ben Moore of Asheboro.

Funeral services were held on Friday, March 9, at Holy Way Church in Eagle Springs. The Bishop Lorenzo Purcell officiated. Burial followed at Eagle Springs Community Cemetery.

Bostic Funeral Chapel in Candor served the family.

Mary M. Spruill, 47, of Jackson Springs, died March 4 at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

Mrs. Spruill was a textile worker.

She is survived by her mother, Ronnie M. Marshall of the home; brothers, James Green of Ellerbe, Charles Green of Queens, NY, and John Green, of Candor; two sisters, Gloria

McLaughlin of Red Spring, and Edna Bennett, of Polkton; and a son, Earl Spruill of Asheboro.

Funeral services were held on March 8, at St. Joseph Holiness Church in Ellerbe. The Rev. Jerry Moore officiated. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

McClendon Funeral Home assisted the family.

Morgan Elizabeth Warner, 16, died Monday, March 5.

Miss Warner was born in Moore County. She attended Pinecrest High School, where she was a member of the National Honor Society, The Interact Club, and track and tennis teams. She was also a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church Youth Group, and worked part-time at The Prescription Shoppe in Seven Lakes.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday, March 14, at Our Lady of the Americas Catholic Church in Biscoe. The Rev. Recardo Sanchez and the Rev. Mark Logue were the celebrants.

She is survived by her parents, Tonia R. and John W. Warner of Biscoe; a brother, Cody Warner of the home; maternal grandparents, Tony and Joanne Richardson, of Aberdeen; paternal grandfather, John W. Warner Sr. of West End; maternal

great-grandparents, Frank and Patricia Logue of Whispering Pines, and maternal great-grandfather, Troy Richardson, of Aberdeen; four aunts, Jennifer Burgess of Monroe, Gwen Fletcher of West End, Pam Drake of Pittsboro, and Angela Byrd of Pine Bluff; and many cousins.

The family was served by Crumpler Funeral Home of Pine Bluff.

Neil MacIntyre, 83, of Seven Lakes South, died on Friday, March 9, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital in Pinehurst.

Born in Glasgow, Scotland to the late Neil MacIntyre and Margaret McLeod MacIntyre, he was a veteran and served his country during WWII in the United States Army Air Force.

He is survived by his wife of fifty-three years, Marilyn MacIntyre of Seven Lakes; three sons, Neil MacIntyre of Toms River, NJ; Jeff MacIntyre of Seven Lakes; Thomas MacIntyre of Old Bridge, NJ; four daughters, Nancy Donahue of Staten Island, NY; Lynn MacIntyre of Cochecon Center, NY; Kim MacIntyre of Staten Island, NY; and Laurie O'Keefe of Fairhaven, NJ. He was preceded in death by one son, Randy MacIntyre.

The funeral services were held at Casey-McCallum-Rice South Shore Funeral Home in Staten Island, NY.

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes assisted the family with arrangements.



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Mark Gentry joins Homeselling Team

Martha Gentry, co-broker and owner of Re/Max Prime Properties and team leader of Martha Gentry's Home Selling Team is pleased to announce that Mark Gentry has joined the team as a Buyer Specialist.

Mark is a native of North Carolina and has lived in Moore County for the past twenty years.

He is well known to many people in the area as the owner and operator of Gentry Curb and Gravel.

Mark built this successful business from the ground up and it has been difficult for him to make this change, but he now feels that the time is right.



Mark Gentry

"I've enjoyed building this business and I know that I'll miss it, but I'm ready for a new challenge. I've grown up around real estate and feel it's a natural choice for me," says Gentry.

Michael Gentry, who has worked in the business with Mark, will be the new owner of Gentry Curb and Gravel and the company will continue to operate in Moore County.

Mark and his wife Ginger live in McLendon Hills with their three children — Hailey, almost nine, Hayden is seven, and their newborn son, Eli, was born January 17.

"This is really a dream come true for Peyton and me," says Martha Gentry.

"We're looking forward to working with Mark. We've both been so proud of the way he's grown his company over these past twelve years and I know that with his outgoing and positive personality that he'll be a great asset to the team!"



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Whether he is turning the pages of his granddaughter's favorite fairy tale or helping us write the next chapter in the ongoing success story of FirstHealth of the Carolinas, John Letter is always doing his part to ensure that every day has a happy ending.

As active members of the Stepping Stones Campaign, he and his wife Nancee have made a strong commitment to the future of our community's health care. Thanks to their acts of kindness and generosity, we can rest assured that the health of our children — and our children's children — will be in good hands.

It has been said it's better to give than to receive. For us, that's doubly true. Besides providing for our family's financial security, our charitable Trust helps "Keep FirstHealth First."

— John Letter
(with granddaughter Jacqueline, enjoying story time together).



You too can make a difference—today, tomorrow and for generations to come.

To learn more about the Stepping Stones Campaign call the Foundation of FirstHealth at 910-695-7500.



Keeping FirstHealth First

Lakes Gardeners get lesson in hydroponics

by Dale Schmidt

Seven Lakes Garden Club

Members of the Seven Lakes Garden Club were treated to a very informative program on hydroponics during the March 8 meeting at the North Clubhouse. Joe Shuping and Richard Freeman of Oak Bluff Farm described their farming process.

This year marks the sixth season Oak Bluff Farm, located near Jackson Springs, has cultivated hydroponic tomatoes here in the Sandhills. The tomatoes are housed within one of two 44' x 128' temperature [-70 degree] and humidity [60% to 80%] controlled greenhouses. Annually in mid August, about 1500 tomato seedlings are placed



Joe Shuping and Richard Freeman of Oak Bluff Farm with hydroponic tomatoes.

in gallon-size plastic box-like containers and fed with a computerized mixture of pH corrected water and nutrients. The watering process occurs every thirty minutes during daylight hours and the plants are allowed to rest at night.

As plants grow they are they are trained along ceiling-suspended plastic strings that can be lowered for picking. Tomato production begins near the end of October and continues through early June, whereby about 500 pounds of tomatoes are picked

(See "Garden," p. 13)



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107 WHITE DRIVE — 7 LAKES WEST

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Lot 3207	1.46 Ac. Blkhd & Perc.	\$315,500
Lot 3390	SOLD!	\$293,500

GOLF FRONT

Lot 6190	TBD Banbridge Dr	\$69,000
Lot 412	National Golf Club.	\$89,000
Lot 9	TBD Paula Ct., The Commons	\$79,900
Lot 6118	284 Longleaf Dr	\$61,500

Healthy skin was the topic for Lakes Women

by Nancy Workman
Women of Seven Lakes

Taking care of your skin was the theme at the March 1 meeting of the Women of Seven Lakes.

Rene Jennings-White, an aesthetic medical coordinator and owner of the Skin Renewal Clinic in Pinehurst, addressed the group with a discussion and demonstration of the many non-surgical skin care options available today for maturing skin. She demonstrated her expertise in identifying skin types and suggesting programs to assist women in caring for their skin as it changes with age.

Also welcomed at the meeting were Linda Hubbard, Volunteer Coordinator for Moore County Schools, and Tina Kissel, a social worker for Moore County Schools. Hubbard presented an overview of the Backpack Pals program: a program that provides nutritious food for children who have been identified as having little food over the weekend.

Backpacks are filled at the Sandhills Food Bank and sent home with the children on Friday afternoon. A charity golf tournament scheduled in May will benefit the Backpack Pals program.

The Women of Seven Lakes have many activities planned for the Spring. The annual St. Patrick's Day Parade and Luncheon will take place at the North Clubhouse on Saturday, March 17 at 11:00 am.

The popular Taste of the Town event will be held at the West Side Community Center on April 16. And a new event, the Charity Golf Tournament is scheduled for May 18 at Beacon Ridge Country Club.

All women of the community are encouraged to attend the next meeting of the Women of Seven Lakes on Thursday, April 5. Featured speaker Nancy O'Connell will present "My Life as a Peace Corps Volunteer," at 2:00 pm at the West Side Park Community Center. Donations of household items and school supplies will be accepted on behalf of the Friend to Friend organization.



Rene Jennings-White and Nancy Workman

Garden Club

(Continued from page 12)

every other day. When the plants start to bloom, essential pollination is performed by bumble bees from hives placed in the greenhouses. The hives must be replaced every twelve weeks.

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ing outdoor-raised peas, onions, etc. is sold directly to the public at the farm and to selected retail outlets in the area. It's worth your time to visit the farm and pickup some nutritious and delicious produce, even in the middle of winter.

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SLLA Candidates' Night packs the house

It was quite literally standing room only in the North Clubhouse during a Wednesday, March 7 Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Candidates' Night sponsored by the Women of Seven Lakes.

Even after additional chairs were brought out, there were landowners lining the wall at the back of the room. It was one of the largest turnouts for an SLLA Candidates' Night in recent memory.

Women of Seven Lakes Co-President Jo Nicholas introduced moderator Linda Tableman, a Vice President of the Moore County League of Women Voters, who put to the candidates six questions that they were provided in advance, as well as several questions submitted by audience members.

The session was conducted according to the standard League of Women Voters format, with a limited time allotted to candidates to respond to each question.

Background & Qualifications.

Candidates were given three minutes to provide information about their background and qualifications to serve on the SLLA board.

Southsider **Donna Stephan**, who identified herself as a mother of five and grandmother of eighteen, said she held both Bachelor's and Master's degrees and had taught school at all grade levels in a career that spanned 28 years. She then started a business teaching teachers how to teach writing. "I believe what I have done working as a mother and a teacher will help me greatly as a member of the board," Stephan said.

Stephan and her husband Bob bought a lot on the ninth green of the Seven Lakes Country Club in 1970 and built their home there in 1999. Since moving to Seven Lakes, Stephan has volunteered with the Moore County Literacy Council, serving as a tutor, board member, and board president.

"I've had a wonderful life, and now it's time for payback," Stephan said, noting that she felt serving on the board would allow her to give something back to the Seven Lakes Community.

Northsider **Randy Zielsdorf** graduated with a mathematics degree from Edinboro University in his native Pennsylvania. Though he originally intended to teach High School mathematics, he ultimately enrolled in the graduate school at UNC-Chapel Hill, taking a degree in biomedical engineering and mathematics. From 1995 to 2004 he ran a consulting company in that field until the business moved offshore. He now teaches mathematics at Montgomery Community College.

Zielsdorf said he first visited Seven Lakes in 1978. His parents moved to the community in the late 1970s and Zielsdorf himself moved to the community in

2000.

Zielsdorf said he was running for the board because he felt that his math and engineering background could add "some analytical skills to the thought process" that the board uses to make its decisions.

Northsider **Laura Douglass** said she had majored in communications in college, which she described as a very useful discipline for a potential leader to study. Noting that she is "usually very direct" in her approach to communications and problem-solving, Douglass said she works to build group consensus in decision-making. "I have found that works well both personally and professionally," Dou-

glass said.

Douglass said her family moved to Seven Lakes when her husband's company moved to Moore County. She said that she is a stay-at-home Mom and works part time writing and editing copy for *The Seven Lakes Times*. Prior to starting her family, she worked for non-profits as a professional fundraiser, volunteer coordinator, and event planner. She was responsible for managing budgets and large computer databases tracking both members and equipment.

Northsider **Loren Swearingen** said he and his wife Judy moved to Seven Lakes from Greensboro in 2001. He began his involvement with the asso-

ciation in 2003, when he served on the Community Standards committee under the leadership of Mille Stewart taking the project of cleaning up the boat and trailer storage area and making sure all boats and trailers were registered. Swearingen successfully ran for the Board in 2005, taking responsibility for Security and Company Police. During his tenure additional lighting was added at Sequoia Point and near the pool, a curfew was placed on SLLA public areas, and speed bumps were added to Lake Sequoia Dam. "All of these positive changes have made Seven Lakes a better and safer place in which to live," Swearingen said.

(See "Zielsdorf" p. 15)

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Zielsdorf: No reason to rush expenses

(Continued from page 14)
gen said.

Southsider **Don Truesdell**, the only incumbent in this year's race, was elected to the board in March 2005 and has served for the last year as SLLA President. Truesdell and his wife Pat moved to Seven Lakes from Princeton, NJ. He holds a BA in Economics from Allegheny College.

Since moving to Seven Lakes, Truesdell, said, he has been very active in community and civic organizations, serving currently as the Treasurer of the Seven Lakes Civic Group and Secretary of the Lion's Club. He is a tutor with the the Literacy Council and a member of Seven Lakes Country Club. "I work out regularly at Seven Lakes Health and Fitness Center and I am computer literate," Truesdell said, concluding his remarks.

"I would like to be member of the board, because I feel we need a little bit of input in there," Northsider **Frank McKenna** said, explaining his reason for seeking a Board seat. McKenna said he graduated with a degree in electrical engineering but spent only three months in that field before starting his own electrical contracting firm on Long Island — a firm that his son now runs.

"We do nursing homes, hospitals, hotels, larger projects," McKenna explained. He said he served on his local volunteer fire department for 42 years, and was trained and served on EMT, AMT, and hose companies. McKenna was also chairman of the electrical board for his village and serving on the board of the building department.

"Learned quite a bit in all of that and feel like I could give a lot of this to Seven Lakes," he said.

Question 1. Encouraging Participation.

Candidates were asked what the SLLA Board could do to increase landowners participation in board activities.

"At the end of the January open meeting, the board voted to delay all voting until the open session of every month — that's a very important first step" **Randy Zielsdorf** answered when asked how the board could improve participation by landowners. "That provides some time for

residents to think about questions and decided if they have any input for the board."

Zielsdorf said the board should do more to justify their expenses, for example setting up a debate on a particular larger expenditure being considered, "bringing out the pros, as well as the cons."

"There's no reason to rush

expenses," Zielsdorf said. He suggested that the Seven Lakes website and the e-mail list could also be used to provide "a conduit for written comments and responses."

In any fiscal year when the community faced major expenses, like the over \$200,000 spent on repairs to Echo Dam, Zielsdorf said that he, if elected,

would ask the board to consider putting a hold on any other expenditures in that year.

Laura Douglass was said she was pleased to see a sign up sheet added at the back table during a recent general meeting of the board. She suggested that the form be expanded with additional information regarding each committee, including the

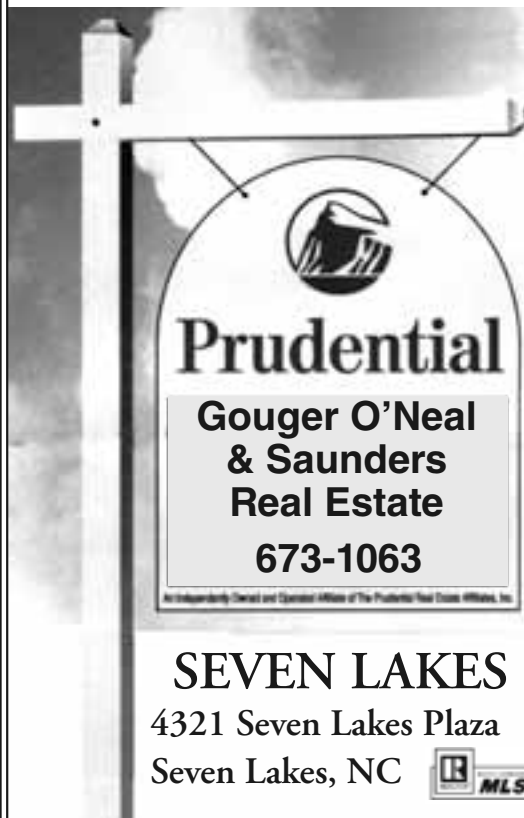
chairman's name, the dates, times, and frequency of committee meetings, and the time commitment that would be required of members.

She suggested that members of standing committees should be encouraged to serve for at least one year, and noted that some commitments, for example

(See "Swearingen" p. 16)

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Swearingen: SL politics a 'contact sport'

(Continued from page 15)

the coordinator of the proposed neighborhood watch program, can be very work intensive. "These obligations should be clearly spelled out by the board, to allow a volunteer complete understanding of what will be expected," Douglass said.

Douglass added that there are on number of shorter term, temporary opportunities for residents to volunteer, including a one-day festival that Douglas herself he is coordinating in order to help raise funds for the Northside Park playground.

Finally, she suggested advertising the needs of individual committees with informational flyers in the mail houses and using the e-mail list maintained at landowners office.

"I personally don't believe it's the responsibility of the board to increase the participation of our residents in board activities," **Loren Swearingen** said. "Residents need to have a strong fire in their belly and then step up and react on their own."

"The board of directors is not a social club," he added. "It is a group of seven, Seven Lakes residents, just like you, who are dedicated to making Seven Lakes a better place in which to live."

Noting that "politics in Seven Lakes is getting to be a contact sport," Swearingen said that most residents don't want to the become involved with board activities. For those who do want to become involved, he offered some guidelines, including a strong desire to make Seven Lakes a better place in which to live, the ability to get important issues resolved for the betterment of our community, good leadership skills, in the considerable time needed to do the job, and experience working on one of the board's standing committees. "I believe this experience to be extremely invaluable when one actually becomes a member the board," Swearingen said.

Don Truesdell said that Seven Lakers go "above and beyond the call, in volunteering for a wide variety of activities in the larger community of Moore County. "But it's difficult to enlist volunteers for activities inside our gates," Truesdell said. He noted that he regularly publishes columns in *The Seven Lakes Times* and

asks for volunteers, but never gets a response.

"At the last open meeting, we asked for volunteers with a new form," Truesdell said "we need volunteers for lots of board committees."

"This board has done more in the last year to communicate with landowners than all other boards combined," Truesdell said, noting that the association and now has a 600 names on its e-mail distribution list, regularly publishes minutes and other board communications on that the SLLA website.

"But still, we haven't seen much increase in attendance at meetings," Truesdell said. "It's exciting to be involved in the community, and I hope you will have the opportunity to be involved," he concluded.

"The board members should get out more, and show the people what they want to do for Seven Lakes," **Frank McKenna** said, adding that the board should create additional ways for the public to participate in decision-making.

"We should all be interested in seeing Seven Lakes progress," McKenna said, adding that "Seven Lakes has gone down some in the past few years."

Noting that there is always room and opportunity to improve the quality of the community, McKenna said that the "board has to work on the betterment of Seven Lakes."

Noting that it is "tough to be the tale of the dragon," **Donna Stephan** said that the easy way for the the Board to encourage landowner participation in meet-

ings is "for you to know when the meetings are."

"It's up to us to post the times of committee meetings," Stephan

said.

Communication is key for both board members and landowners, (See "Stephan," p. 17)

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Stephan: Standards and ARB are the key

(Continued from page 16)

she added. "If you want to know more, then you should go to meetings. The committee meetings and board meetings and work sessions are all open to every one."

Question 2. Preferred position.

The second question asked candidates what position on the board they felt "most interested in and qualified for."

"I would like to think I am flexible enough and have the instincts and where was all to carry out any position on the board to the best my abilities," **Laura Douglass** said when asked what the job on the board she felt most qualified for. "However, the recreation directorship is where I would be most effective and am most knowledgeable."

Douglas said that she is currently a member of the recreation committee and chairs the playground advisory committee, where her goal has been to work for the improvement of Northside Park. Calling the park "the single most undervalued amenity in the neighborhood," Douglass said that, with some work, the park could rival the facilities at

most of the state parks in North Carolina.

"The park simply needs a face left," Douglass said, "and I think once completed, the neighborhood will come to appreciate it as I do." She said her committee had been working on improving landscaping, equipment placement, and policies for those who use the park.

If elected to the board, Douglass said, "I feel like can effect the same positive change I have invested in the park throughout our recreational programming. Our board needs to stay current with the needs and interests of this community and continue to provide programs that will keep Seven Lakes competitive with neighboring communities."

Loren Swearingen said that he would like to chair the community standards committee if elected to the board. Returning to his work on that committee in 2003 when it was chaired by Millie Stewart, Swearingen said that he had taken on the job of cleaning up the boat and trailer storage area at Sequoia point. He also reminded landowners of the improvements he had made in lighting and other security measures while he served on the board as the director in charge

of security and company police.

Don Truesdell, who currently serves as the board's president, said "I think my business career of over 38 years in a closely held private company has honed me for serving on the board." Noting that he served as the company's chief executive officer for the last fifteen years of his career, Truesdell said that running a small company meant wearing many hats and dealing with a wide range of issues, which equipped him with a broad business background for dealing with the many issues facing Seven Lakes.

"I'm still young and healthy, and I am willing to devote whatever time is necessary," Truesdell said. He added that one of his greatest strengths as a board member is his ability to focus on issues and come up with innovative solutions. Noting that SLLA health care expenses had increased dramatically in the past two years, Truesdell said that he has met with representatives of the Pinewild gated community

and also talked with an employee leasing company, both with an eye to finding ways to increase the size of the health insurance group to which Seven Lakes employees are assigned, and thereby reducing health insurance premiums.

Truesdell said in that he is "very detail oriented" but nonetheless can focus on the big picture. He added that he is a good facilitator of board and committee meetings.

Frank McKenna said he felt his expertise in construction and building made him a good candidate for the chairmanship of the Architectural Review Board [ARB]. "I would like to serve on ARB to build the standards of the homes a little higher," McKenna said. Improving the quality of the homes being built in the community would mean better revenue for us and better things for the community," he added.

"I'm going to fight you for this one, Frank!" **Donna Stephan** said, following McKenna at the podium. Noting that she has

been serving on ARB since October, Stephan said she was most interested in chairing that committee.

"For many of us, the largest investment that we have today is our home," Stephan said. "The other large investment we have is our investment in this community."

"Community Standards and ARB are the keys to not just maintaining but increasing value on the homes in this community. I have read the Green Book from top to bottom and from bottom to top. I will fight hard to make sure the houses that are built now will do nothing but make it better for us in the future."

Randy Zielsdorf said his greatest areas of concern were the community's finances, maintenance, and upkeep of the common areas.

Zielsdorf said he wanted to commend the present board for its line-by-line review of the SLLA budget. "That should be done every year — and we need to

(See "Truesdell," p. 18)



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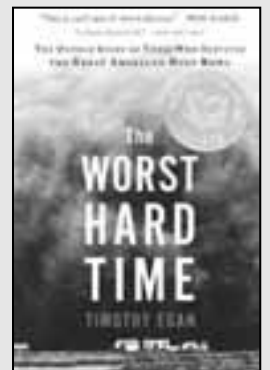
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Truesdell: ARB needs professional member

(Continued from page 17)

pay as much attention to our capital expenditures as to the line items in the operational budget."

But Zielsdorf said he did have questions about the way in which the board has evaluated some expenditures. He noted that the original estimated cost of the barcode entry system at the North and South side gates was just over \$70,000, yet the Association has thus far spent more than \$83,000 on the system.

"And what about long-term maintenance costs?" Zielsdorf asked, noting both the \$8,800 anticipated annual bill from Time-Warner to connect the gtes and other cameras to the office and the potential cost of periodically replacing burnt-out lasers.

On top of his concerns with the cost of the system, Zielsdorf questioned whether the security cameras would be able to produce usable images at night and under variable lighting conditions.

Question 3.

Key Issues.

Moderator Linda Tableman asked the candidates: "What issues need to be addressed in the near- and long-term?"

"Every year hot button issues surface for the board to solve," **Loren Swearingen** said, noting that he sees two such issues for the coming year:

- Annual salary increases and increased health benefit costs for SLLA employees, and
- "The difference of opinion between the SLLA and Seven Lakes Country Club regarding their planned new driving range and the sale of the old driving range for development."

Swearingen said he believes the board should survey the landowners "for their input which could determine how future boards will attempt to meet their needs."

He also suggested creating a long-range planning committee that will operate independently of the board and then submit its findings to the board for discussion.

Don Truesdell recommended improvements to the Architectural Review process as a key short-term goal. He said the SLLA

needs to find a retired architect or builder to serve on the committee — or hire an architect to advise the group. Nearby homeowners need to be involved in the review process for a new home, Truesdell said, and an appeal

process needs to be developed for residents unhappy with the board's decisions.

Turning to the SLLA staff, Truesdell said that pay scales need to be developed that are in line with county and state guide-

lines, and the maintenance department needs more supervision. In addition, a maintenance program should be developed for all SLLA-owned equipment.

Truesdell said he has con-

tacted the Moore County Department of Aging to see what sorts of programs they have that could be helpful to the older members of the community.

Looking longer-term, Trues-

(See "Douglass" p. 19)

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Douglass: Road repair cost 'a giant wall'

(Continued from page 18)

dell said the board needs to prioritize the replacement and repair of major assets and hire an independent consultant to help prioritize needed repairs to community streets. He said the SLLA needs to explore a greater use of part-time employees in order to avoid the escalating cost of employee health insurance.

Finally, the budget needs to continue to be subjected to a line-by-line review in order to manage expenses to increase year-end cash reserves. He noted that year-end reserves will increase by \$123,000 this year.

After listening the responses of the other candidates, **Frank McKenna** said, "The candidates before have stated the situation right to the point. I have nothing to add."

The driving range issue, road paving, and employee salaries and benefits were at the top of **Donna Stephan's** list of long-and-short-term objectives.

"We have to build our reserves," she added, "I thought we had some, but it got used up."

"We have to instill in everyone here that we must enhance our standards, we must enhance our properties."

"I love to paint," Stephan said, "because I can turn around and take pride in what I have done. Do we turn around and look at our homes and community and take pride in them?"

We need better justification for capital expenses," **Randy Zielsdorf** said. "We need to build our reserves — desperately."

Zielsdorf said one of the challenges for Seven Lakes is how to stay competitive with other new housing options developing in this part of the county, for example, on Holly Grove School Road.

"If we get a high school in Eastwood that will make folks want to move out this way," he said. "Seven Lakes was the Big Kahuna. We have to be careful we don't get too cocky. In order to keep our housing values, we need to stay competitive."

Zielsdorf said the SLLA needs a maintenance schedule that looks out over ten to fifteen years. It should be drawn up by the Community Manager and

reviewed by the Board, he suggested. The benefit of this approach will be to space out larger maintenance expenditures.

"I'm a strong believer in the common areas," Zielsdorf said. "I'm for anything we can do to keep these looking good."

Laura Douglass said the most immediate need is for the board to determine how much it will cost to repair community roads and "then to create a separate fund that will continue to grow and bank for this expense."

The unknown yet looming cost of road repairs "has become a giant wall inhibiting progress," Douglass said. "It is difficult, if not impossible, to make even minor financial decisions when we continue to speculate about the huge road expense."

Having a good estimate and a reasonable savings plan for this expense will allow the community to make progress on other pressing needs, like resurfacing the pool deck and lowering and enclosing the debris dump, she added.

Douglass said another aspect of road repair makes it a key long-term priority. "Keeping up community standards and prop-

erty values is challenged by our unattractive roads," she noted. "This little ribbon of deteriorating asphalt is eroding the appeal of our community and we need to seriously address the long term costs and planning required to improve and maintain it with real numbers and to stop speculating."

Question 4. Back gate.

None of the candidates found much merit in the idea of having a separate, unattended, barcode entry gate and exit for either the North or South Side.

Don Truesdell said cost of both the gate and the necessary road paving for entrance and exit lanes would be prohibitive. Though another gate might help with rush hour traffic backups on the North Side, Truesdell said, "We don't have discretionary money for this." Plus, an unattended gate is a security issue, he added.

"No, I don't believe we need," **Frank McKenna** said. The current system is working fine, and "the cost would be too much to absorb. I'd have to ask, 'Do we really need it?'"

Donna Stephan said she'd

be in favor of additional gates only if the request came from the Fire Department or EMS. Adding gates would be "asking for more problems than we already have," she said. "We have a problem with the gates now."

"It's not even a starter," **Randy Zielsdorf** said, mentioning both the cost and possible security issues with an unmanned gate. "Plus, I can't imagine putting gates in another location that would benefit everyone in Seven Lakes." Noting the start-up problems with the new barcode gates, Zielsdorf said, "I would be not happy to toss any more money to the existing company."

Zielsdorf added that he was concerned that the Association will be tracking the comings and goings of residents with the new barcode system. "What safeguards are in place" to prevent the

misuse of that information, he asked. He also suggested that charging for barcode stickers has resulted in fewer landowners purchasing them than would be ideal to make the gate system function effectively.

Laura Douglass pointed out that other communities in the area with "back gates" — like Pinewild or Seven Lakes West — positioned those gates in a way that creates a short-cut for those traveling into Southern Pines or Pinehurst. No location in Seven Lakes North or South would offer this kind of short-cut, she said,

In addition, new gates could route traffic away from the Seven Lakes Business Village, which would be undesirable. "We need to support our local merchants as their presence improves our

(See "McKenna," p. 22)



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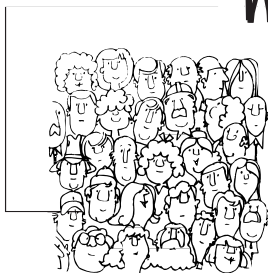
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- **St. Patrick's Day Parade and Luncheon** – 11:00 am, Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. Bands, clubs, organizations, businesses, and families with or without pets are welcome to participate. A corned beef sandwich luncheon will be served at 11:45 am. Tickets available from Ginny Heerema 673-5150, Maureen Malone 673-2553, Judy Collins 673-5055, or Peggy McCallum 673-1506. Parade entry forms available from John & Connie Loy at 673-5571, or John & Dorothy Kelly at 673-1065.
- **Project Linus Bake Sale** – 11:00 am, North Clubhouse parking lot. Donated baked goods will be sold during the Women of Seven Lakes St. Patrick's Day Parade and Luncheon. Cookies, cakes, cheesecake, pies, brownies, homemade rolls, and more. All monies raised will be used to buy fleece for the Seven Lakes Summer Camp Project Linus blanket-making activities. Call Pat Weber at 673-1457, to donate a special treat.
- **SLCC St. Patrick's Day Dinner & Dance** – 5:30 pm cocktails, 6:30 pm dinner, Seven Lakes Country Club. Music will be supplied by Larry Carringer. Members price is \$17.95 all-inclusive. Non-members price \$22.95. Hosts Lois and Tony Rocco, and Marge and Randy Randolph.
- **Kubotan Defense Class** – 10:00 am – Noon, Goshin Dojo Karate in Seven Lakes Business Village. Class provides training in the use of Kubotan Key chain Self-Defense System. Cost is \$35 per person. Class size is limited. To register, call 673-5370.

SUNDAY, MARCH 18

- **Annual Meeting of the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association** – 2:00 pm, West



Side Park Community Center. In the Great Room.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

- **Area 'A' Small Area Planning Steering Committee** – 6:00 pm, Old West End School Cafeteria, NC Highway 211, West End.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21

- **Project Linus Workshop** – 10:00 am - 3:00 pm, North Clubhouse. We are busy making blankets for children in need in Moore County and would like for you to participate. There will be fleece to cut and tie, labels to sew, kits to check out, and special projects to work on. Drop by, check us out, and see if any or our activities interest you. Call Pat Weber at 673-1457, if you have questions or would like to donate supplies.

THURSDAY, MARCH 22

- **BookGroup by the Lakes** – 7:00 pm, the group will discuss *The Worst Hard*

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Plaza.

- **Ruth Pauley Lecture Series** – 7:30 pm, Owens Auditorium on the Sandhills Community College campus

in Pinehurst. Bishop John Shelby Spong will discuss "Jesus for the Non-Religious." Admission is free and open to the public with no tickets required. For additional information, call 245-3132, after 6:00 pm.

FRIDAY, MARCH 23

- **Rooster's Wife Concert Series** – 8:00 pm, corner of Blue and High Streets in Aberdeen. Songwriters Doug and Telisha Williams will be featured in March. On May 27 the Rooster's Wife will welcome Polecat Creek. www.polecatcreek.net

SATURDAY, MARCH 24

- **Women's Self-Defense Class** – 9:00 am – 11:00 am, Goshin Dojo Karate in Seven Lakes Business Village. This class is for women and girls over age twelve. Discussion and techniques will be learned that deal with violent situations. Please wear regular, comfortable clothing. Cost is \$20 per person. Class size is limited. For information or to register, call 673-5370.
- **Renewal Workshop at Seven Lakes Massage &**



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Body Therapies – 10:30 am - Noon, Seven Lakes Massage and Body Therapies on Seven Lakes Drive. Nutritional consultant Mweia Uqoezwa, MS, CHC, presents an interactive seminar on detox, renewal, and creating a personalized cleansing program. Call 673-2000 for information or to register. Cost is \$15 in advance, or \$20 at the door.

• **Project Linus Junior Blanketeers** – 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm, North Clubhouse. Project Linus works with several school children groups to make fleece blankets for children in need. Our chapter would like to offer the same opportunity to children in Seven Lakes. An introduction to the organization will be given, blanket samples will be shown, and blanket stories shared. Fleece will be provided and each child can participate in blanket-making. Activities will be based upon age and ability, parents are welcome. Call Pat Weber at 673-1457.

SUNDAY, MARCH 25

• **Annual Meeting of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association** – 2:30 pm registration, 3:00 pm meeting begins. West End Elementary School Gym.

TUESDAY, MARCH 27

• **AARP Driver Safety Program** – 10:00 am – 3:00 pm, class continues on Wednesday, March 28, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. 8040 US 15/501 located two miles north of the Pinehurst traffic circle. This two-day refresh-er course covers age related

changes and tips for declining skills. Fee is \$10, and class size is limited. To register, call 947-2881.

• **Ninth Annual Dirt Gardeners Workshop** – 8:30 am – 1:00 pm, The Weymouth Center for the Arts and Humanities at 555 East Connecticut Avenue in Southern Pines. "For the Love of Gardening: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow," is presented by Bryce Lane of North Carolina State University, Host of UNC-TV Public Broadcasting Series "In the Garden with Bryce Lane," and Ginny Gregory, owner of Beyond The Pail: Garden Creations and Beyond. The workshop is limited to eighty participants; cost is \$20 per person. To register call 692-6261.

SATURDAY, MARCH 31

• **Safety Last – "a silent movie at Sunrise Theater"** – 2:30 pm and 7:30 pm, Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street in Southern Pines. Harold Lloyd's most famous comedy "Safety Last" with Chicago's Dave Drazin providing dazzling accompaniment for the film. Adult tickets for the afternoon performance are \$10, and \$15 for the evening performance. The evening performance includes a wine and cheese reception and an opportunity to meet and speak with Drazin. Admission is \$8 for children 12 and under for both performances. Tickets are available at the Country Book Store, Givens Memorial Library in Pinehurst, and Nature's Own in Southern Pines or can be purchased

at the Sunrise Theater Box office during operating hours. Call 692-3611.

SUNDAY, APRIL 1

• **Seven Lakes West Easter Egg Hunt** – 3:00 pm, West Side Park Community Center. The Easter Bunny will hide lots and lots of eggs for the second annual Easter Egg Hunt. Please join the fun as there will be games, activities, and refreshments to be enjoyed by all. The rain date will be Monday, April 2 at 5:00 pm. For information, please call Janet Baker at 673-1644.

THURSDAY, APRIL 5

• **Women of Seven Lakes Meeting** – 2:00 pm, West Side Park Community Center. Nancy O'Connell will speak on "My Life as a Peace Corps Volunteer." Special needs for Friend to Friend include donations of laundry detergent, room air deodorizers, batteries, light bulbs, and kitchen-size trash bags.

FRIDAY, APRIL 6

• **Church Women United Meeting** – 10:00 am, Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Southern Pines. All who wish to join are welcome.

SATURDAY, APRIL 7

• **Easter Egg Hunt** – 11:00 am, Northside Park and North Clubhouse. The Easter Bunny will be attending and will hide lots of eggs. All children are welcome to participate.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11

• **English Speaking Union Dinner Program** – 6:00 pm, The Country Club of North Carolina. Presentation by Dr. Theodore H. Leinbaugh, UNC faculty member and distinguished scholar of medieval English literature, will recognize the Marshall Scholar Program. For more information, please contact Linda McVay at 295-7474, or Dr. Phillip Hinesley at 295-8808.

SATURDAY, APRIL 14

• **Foxfire Festival and Dedication Ceremony** – 8:30 am - 4:00 pm, Foxfire Village Green Park. Dedication of the new fifty-acre park followed by festival featuring artisans from the area, a Car Expo of classic cars, live entertainment, Foxfire Garden Club Bake Sale, Talbert's Catering, and a Bluebird Run which will take participants on a one mile walk/run on the park

walking trail and 5K runners through the west side of Foxfire Village. Admission is free. Information is available on www.foxfirenc.com.

MONDAY, APRIL 16

• **Taste of the Town** – 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm, West Side Park Community Center. Sponsored by the Women of Seven Lakes the third annual Taste of the Town will benefit Moore Regional Hospital Foundation's Child Care Fund. Tickets are \$18 at the North Clubhouse during the St. Patrick's Day Parade and Luncheon. Laurie Werner at 673-5892, Ginny Rowland at 673-7710, or Deanna Petrie at 673-4295.

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McKenna: Watch will need younger folks

(Continued from page 19)

property values, provides neighborhood cohesion between us and the Westside, and keeps our fuel and vehicle expenses down by providing local services and products," Douglass said.

Loren Swearingen said he was not in favor of new unattended gates, noting the cost of adding one new gate would be \$30,000 and associated paving costs could be \$25,000 or more.

I don't believe the West Side is too happy with their unattended entrance,' He added. "Unauthorized motorists continually tailgate their residents as they go through the gate and enter before the gate has a chance to come down," Swearingen said. "They also have had numerous problems with unauthorized motorists running through the gate and breaking it."

Question 5.

Neighborhood watch.

Candidates were asked whether the SLLA should pursue establishing a Neighborhood Watch program.

"A Neighborhood Watch might work," **Frank McKenna** said, "if enough people in the community are involved." But the volunteers would have to come principally from the younger rather than the older members of the community he added.

"If you call the Sheriff it's a 15-20 minute wait," McKenna said. Noting that an effective Neighborhood Watch requires a large number of volunteers available on a consistent basis, he added, "The people in the community have to know what they are getting into."

"I do believe it could work," **Donna Stephan** agreed, noting that "It has to be set up in a certain way."

"With problems we had a couple of weeks ago," she added, referring to thefts from unlocked vehicles, "I think Neighborhood Watch could help."

Noting that "we have residents like Frank who moved here from communities that have Neighborhood Watch," **Randy Zielsdorf** said the SLLA can draw on their expertise.

"We should coordinate with the Sheriff," he added. "There are probably lots of templates available. We can pick one, and

tailor it to our needs."

Zielsdorf added that he is pleased with the visibility of the current roving security patrol, which provides 80 hours per week of coverage.

Laura Douglass noted that Seven Lakes homeowners who live adjacent to the common areas have always served as a sort of informal Neighborhood Watch, but "our community would be well served by a coordinated, Board-sponsored program."

Laura Douglass said a Watch program should be positioned as a positive, not a negative, as a symbol "to current and prospective homeowners that we truly do care about each other as a community."

"In my work at Northside Park, I have taken deliberate steps and made my intent clear that our children and teenagers are welcome, full members of this community," Douglass added, noting that the community can use recreation programs and facilities to attract children and teens to "predetermined locations of choice, while allowing the Neighborhood Watch program to function efficiently."

Neighborhood Watch programs have proven very effective in

some communities," **Loren Swearingen** said, noting that "extensive volunteer manpower . . . is extremely important to the success of the program."

If elected, Swearingen said, he would support Security Director Michael Florence's efforts to get a program up and running.

"Yes, I definitely support a Watch program," Don Truesdell said. "As Loren mentioned, it will take a lot of cooperation from volunteers to make it happen."

Don Truesdell said the SLLA already has a strong relationship with Sheriff Lane Carter and Deputy Mike Kantorowski, who has the Seven Lakes beat for the Sheriff's Department. He noted that the SLLA has purchased vehicle speed sensors and used the data from those devices to set up radar traps to help control speeding.

"At the very least we could buy Neighborhood Watch signs and post them," Truesdell added, noting that potential wrong-doers might be dissuaded simply by seeing the signs.

Landowner questions.

The meeting concluded with questions from the audience:

- How to prevent occasional

traffic tie-ups that back up a line of cars on Seven Lake Drive near the North and South Side Gates.

- Whether the SLLA can work more closely with the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association to find common solutions to common problems.
- How to fix the Southside mail house parking lot to prevent

fender-benders.

- What the candidates, if elected, would do to fix up the North Clubhouse meeting and game rooms, which are in need of repair.

Summaries of the candidates' answers to those questions can be found on *The Seven Lakes Times* new website, at www.sevenlakestimes.net.

Methodist Salad Supper

The Women of West End United Methodist Church are busy checking recipes in anticipation of the popular Salad Supper scheduled for Friday, May 4 at 6:00 pm in the church Fellowship Hall. Some of the popular salads available will be chicken, seafood, tossed, congealed, and ham along with a smorgasbord of desserts. Tickets are \$8.00 for adults, and \$4.00 for children twelve and under. All proceeds support mission projects, including the local Food Bank. Get your tickets early by calling Trudi Vaughn at 255-6158. Tickets will not be available at the door.



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Hello, my name is Trey Waters and I'm happy to announce that I'm soon to buy The Seven Lakes Prescription Shoppe, Inc. I graduated in 2002 with a Doctorate in Pharmacy from the Campbell University.

After pharmacy school I worked in several independent drug stores throughout North Carolina doing relief work. I wanted to work in several unique environments because I wanted to see the good and the bad of every store and decide which things to draw from and which things to change.

I held this strategy because I knew ultimately I wanted to own my own store, but I did not know the exact time frame.

Enter Ron Ward. I met Ron through a mutual friend and instantly I knew I wanted to work with him. I am very grateful to Ron Ward for all of his mentoring and tutelage; he has truly been a great leader to me over the last couple of years and has given me a tremendous opportunity.

I knew when I was twelve years old that I wanted to become a pharmacist. My grandfather was diagnosed with diabetes and was given a handful of prescriptions. I remember the look of fear and confusion on his face, as he had little to no idea what to do. He had not been educated regarding his medications, including side effects, how and when to take it, storage requirements, and so on.

I knew then I wanted the job of learning about and explaining medical information throughout a community, specifically to lay persons. Many of you know me as your pharmacist and perhaps many

of you do not, whichever the cases may be I look forward to continued and new relationships as this transition takes place.

With every transition in business there comes new management style, and new ideas as

to how to provide better service.

Although I have many of my own goals, in an effort to incorporate the thoughts of the Seven

Lakes and surrounding communities, I would like your feedback. It is my intention to provide your healthcare needs and I would like your help in doing so. What products would you like to see on our shelves?

What services would you like to see us offer that we are currently not doing? What sorts of things are you dissatisfied with and/or would like to see us improve on?

I appreciate your feedback more than you realize and I am looking forward to making positive changes in the right direction.

Please email me or write me with your thoughts, questions, or suggestions. I can be reached at waters.trey@gmail.com, or PO Box 1014, Southern Pines, NC 28388.

The Prescription Shoppe's "Doc Waters" authored a regular health column for The Times a year or two ago. Now that he has returned to Seven Lakes full-time, we will be reviving his column. Please let us know if there are subjects you would like to see addressed in this space.

— Greg Hankins, Editor



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417 Longleaf Drive

New Lakeview Construction home with upgrades that the discriminating home buyer desires: granite, hardwoods, tile, and Corian. Open floor plan with split bedrooms, cathedral and tray ceilings, three bedrooms, two baths, Carolina Room. Great house, great floor plan. \$325,900



133 Swaringen Drive

Gorgeous views of Lake Auman. 4 BR, 2.5 BA, Carolina rm, formals, all brick, great rm, rec/play area, master on main level. New tile floor & granite countertop in kitchen, eat-in area, and half-bath. Great floor plan! Room to roam!!! \$379,000



Harry sez:



Act
Responsibly

Spay or
Neuter your
pet!

Visit website for
visual tours
on all listings!

Not exactly a vacation . . .

Hello again. I wish that I could tell you that I've been off on an exotic vacation or visiting family or friends, however, in a sense I've spent time "in a different world." That of extremely severe pain and of the effects of the medications that are essential for controlling such pain.

I'm going to tell you about my experience only because I learned something that may be of help to someone else.

At Christmas time, I invited some very welcome guests for dinner, but I realized that the pain in my back and leg had become so severe that it was almost impossible for me to prepare a holiday meal. Therefore, I ordered the dinner to be

that are essential to one suffering severe back pain and almost total use of one leg. Friends toted me around to various professional appointments. I certainly never expected to utilize the wheelchairs that are available in all physicians' offices.

It was also decided by collaboration of two doctors that I should have FirstHealth install a monitor in my house. I wasn't aware that I was in need of such an item, but it is something that I'd like for you to know about. It is another example of the progressive and insightful health care that our local hospital now provides to appropriate patients.

The monitor is like a small television set in appearance. Each day all vital signs are entered into it, to be checked daily by a trained nurse. Attached to it are devices to register heart function and blood pressure. One also enters weight per day, and in my case, blood glucose level. If the patient has a wound or has had an incision, a nurse may use a digital camera to take a photo which can be seen by one's physician. By use of one of the buttons, a patient may signal a desire

for advice or a question which can then be transmitted to a nurse in the hospital. The nurse will respond by phone.

This device is reassuring to worried patients, cuts down on hospital visits and trips to the ER, and allows physicians to be aware of a person's vital signs each day. Nursing visits occur twice a week, unless greater frequency is necessary.

This is surely another evidence of our dependence upon the advances of technology, but I have to salute the FirstHealth organization for continually utilizing what the technical world is making available to the end of better medical care. We truly live in an area where the best of care is available.

Nona's Notes

Nona Wiley



prepared by The Italian Table restaurant.

This is the most important advice I have to give. When you are suffering, don't put off seeing your physician. I could have saved myself so very much if I had seen my doctor in December rather than waiting until mid-January. I was advised to go to the Emergency Room for X-rays so that he could see them before my appointment the next day.

It was there that I got the first hint of what I was facing. When the ER physician gave me a prescription for one hundred pain pills and the diagnosis of sciatica, I still didn't realize what was coming. At one point, three different medications were prescribed and I lived in La-La Land for several weeks. My neighbors provided all of the items

Letter writers have it wrong

Dear Editor:

I am saddened by the rancor, incivility, and outright character assassination which have permeated so many recent Letters to the Editor. They are not at all reflective of the community into which Joanne and I excitedly moved almost eight years ago.

The two instances of character assassination to which I refer, one by name, the other by insinuation, involve Ray MacKay and Virgil Reid. I, too, served on the Beacon Ridge Landowners Association Board cited by George Mercer in his very factual letter, which appeared in the March 2 addition of *The Times*.

On that Board as well was Ray MacKay. Working with Ray during that period, observing him then and now, I am convinced there is not another resident within the confines of Seven Lakes West who has given more of themselves or their time in an effort to improve our infrastructure and add to our quality of life than MacKay.

Secondly, to imply that Virgil Reid, our current treasurer, may have played fast-and-loose with Seven Lakes West funds during the past year leaves me incredulous. I know and have worked

with Virgil on more than one occasion. I believe him to be a man of utmost honesty and integrity and will be the most shocked person in our community should the impending audit reveal even a hint of wrong doing during his watch.

Admittedly, I do not know most of the letter writers. A few, however, I do. Almost to a person, regrettably, I have never

had the pleasure of working with any of them on the various teams, committees, etc. on which I have served in support of this and the previous Board.

To these individuals, I would like to share two things I learned early on in my other life:

1. Should you perceive, or believe, there is a problem, get involved and become part of a constructive solution. Don't just stand on the sidelines and throw gasoline on the flames;
2. Remember, the easiest job in the world at which to excel is that of a critic!

Thankfully, the election of new board members will soon be history. Until then, and long afterward — I hope, can't we just get along?

Charlie Merical
Seven Lakes West

Letters to the Editor



SEVEN LAKES TIMES

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Letters to the Editor



Your letters welcome!

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SLLA employees are a community asset

Dear Editor:

With the election for the Board of Directors of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] upon us, I feel the need to have my opinion heard.

It is evident that the discussion of budgetary constraints and employee pay are a very hot topic. I just hope that voters, and subsequently the new Board of Directors, will listen to the comment made by Ed Nuti at a budget meeting that "Good employees are an amenity too." [see Greg Hankins' *Seven Lakes Times* editorial dated February 9]. One particular such amenity is the staff of the SLLA.

Over the last two years my company has been fairly active in the residential real estate market in Seven Lakes North and

South. Throughout this time we have worked very closely with the SLLA staff. A good portion of our investment is long term (e.g. installation of water lines, extension of septic lines, road paving) and requires the interaction with and cooperation of the Board of Directors.

We could not have accomplished our goals thus far without the assistance of the SLLA Community Manager Dalton Fulcher and his staff. And through Mr. Fulcher's efforts and assistance, the SLLA has brought current the dues on numerous forgotten lots and thereby the SLLA has received thousands of dollars that the Board and SLLA thought was otherwise uncollectible, not to mention the future stream of dues from those lots.

At all times Mr. Fulcher, Debbie, Vicky, and Chad have been professional, courteous and cooperative. It would be impossible to put a value on the experience and community knowledge that Mr. Fulcher and his staff have accrued since joining the SLLA. If you have not met them, please go by the association office and introduce yourself. You will be met with a smile and a helping hand.

Greg Hankins wrote it best in his February 9 editorial, "...there's no question that both the quality of life and the property values in Seven Lakes are improved by having talented, experienced, and dedicated employees."

To the residents of Seven Lakes North and South, get out

and vote. Read the articles in *The Seven Lakes Times*, talk to your neighbors, ask questions, and form your opinion as to who will best serve your needs and concerns and the community as a whole. It is the responsibility of the Board of Directors to make difficult budgetary decisions, but it is incumbent upon the association members to elect Direc-

tors who will make those decisions while recognizing the invaluable assets that the SLLA currently possesses. As stated by John Paulson in his letter dated March 1, "One of the greatest assets that SLLA has is our employees."

Clark H. Campbell, Manager Grumpy Pumpkin, LLC

Public deserved better

Dear Editor:

Thanks to the SLLA Board for their many fine accomplishments and their continuous hard work.

How ironic then on February 28 at the open meeting and at the immediate following Executive Session, they lapsed in their

primary duty — to serve the community responsibly. After publicly tabling the budget vote pending receipt of comparable compensation information, in the following closed session they approved the originally proposed budget without the additional facts? Why?

Are we not entitled to a forthright response rather than the self-serving explanation to the March 2 *Seven Lakes Times*?

Are we losing open and meaningful communication?

Fortunately such apparent bad faith acts are rare. None should be the goal.

*Jim Allen
Seven Lakes North*

A slate of winners

Dear Editor:

It is with some trepidation that I submit a personal belief, conviction, opinion, and or sentiment concerning our upcoming election for directors of our landowner's board.

However, I strongly base the above on the past methods of performance that I have personally been privileged to witness: and to the reports from sources I have in the past given unqualified credence!

Therefore, consider the following qualifications — dedication, experience, energy, honesty, articulation, commitment, independence, and lastly able to form opinions that always encompass free-thinking and project

compromise when needed.

To that end, I propose the following candidates as possessing the above attributes; Don Truesdell, Laura Douglass, Loren Swearingen, and Donna Stephan.

*Dave Davies
Seven Lakes North*

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One owner, custom built, all brick home on a beautiful elevated lot 5 minutes from the 1st tee. Quality construction throughout with new heat pump in 2006, solid surface counter tops, hardwood flooring in the kitchen and kitchen eating area, this home has 9 foot ceilings in the Great Room and high cathedral in the Carolina Room. **\$339,900**

LAKE FRONT
SEVEN LAKES NORTH
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'Financial report' was attack on Manager

Dear Fellow Seven Lakes Landowners Association Members:

If you didn't attend the Association's February 28 evening meeting and are concerned about missing a report on our Association's current financial status, don't worry, you missed nothing — as no such report was presented!

Instead, along with unnecessary minutiae not germane to finance our Treasurer presented an uncalled for, irresponsible, unprofessional, and unfounded vindictive attack on the Association's Community Manager's integrity. He even had the audacity to send his report to *The Seven Lakes Times* two days before the Association's meeting. Among the professed "horror's" presented by our Treasurer were the following:

- **Travel Pay:** Our Community Manager and Assistant each receive \$150 per month for travel expenses. The IRS authorizes \$0.445 per mile which means each are com-

pensated for 337 miles per month or 13.5 miles per day for a 25 workday month. Not mentioned is the fact that the Association has 26 miles of roads. Overlooked are the numerous required trips into town or use of the Assistant Manager's Truck and Horse Trailer when required. If this is truly a concern it should be discussed at a Finance Committee meeting not at a public forum. Uncalled for!

- **Health Plan:** Our Treasurer reported that a 1988 Board approved the addition of a family member to the Association's Health Plan in lieu of an annual raise for said employee. This was an irresponsible inclusion of employee personnel information outside the realm of the Treasurer's responsibility. Despicable!

- **Too Many Supervisors:** Claimed the Association has too many managers citing lead maintenance employees classified as supervisors while in truth their pay hardly meets the requirements of such a classification. While entitled to his opinions they should be confined to the board room

and not in a public forum. Unprofessional!

- **Second Dump Truck:** This is old news! A previous Board approved the purchase of that truck. To infer that there was chicanery involved is irresponsible and has nothing to do with the Association's current financial status. An unfounded implied allegation regarding the community manager's integrity!

- **There is \$175,000 missing from the Association's Accounts:** Our Treasurer reported that there is supposed to be \$175,000 in a restricted reserve paving account but claims it is not there and all should ask, "Where's the money?" This is an outright implied allegation that someone has taken the money with the inference of the community manager's involvement! Sorry, Mr. Treasurer, the money is there in its proper account. You just didn't know where to look! (I know some outstanding lawyers if the Community Manager has an interest!)

Such unprofessional, vindictive conduct containing unfounded

public allegations has led me to only one conclusion, and that is to encourage the Association's Board of Directors to ask for and accept the Association's Treasurer's immediate resigna-

tion. Not to do so implies their willingness to condone such public unfounded allegations.

Manila G. Shaver

Major General (Retired) AUS

Keeping afloat

Uncertainty is definitely not something to thrive on. But keeping alive the realization that each and every day is another opportunity obviously is. A chance to rise above, even if only sporadically, the inevitable setbacks that humans are prey to.

mounting the waves. The size of it is usually not a critical element, so long as the light is still flickering.

Hope should never be surrendered, though emotions of the heart may flounder at times.

Nothing, nothing can erase the elasticity, tenacity and purity of true commitment, an open-

armed stature that defies detailed conjectures or precise description. Each example is in itself unique, and worthy of care.

Yes, the next

The glow of success is something, in however small measure, that helps keep one sur-

dawn beckons. Be ready to meet it, and to help those who are struggling to do so.



Mason's Musings

Mason Gould

Literacy tutors needed

Free, one-one-on tutoring in reading, writing, or speaking English, by volunteers with The Moore County Literacy Council is now being offered at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church in Seven Lakes.

Additional tutoring programs on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings meet at the Youth House of Emmanuel Episcopal Church, at the corner of Indiana and Ridge. All other tutoring is offered at their new home office at Ice House Square, Suite 11, 575 SE Broad Street in Southern Pines.

The mailing address remains the same — The Moore County Literacy Council, P.O. Box 1966, Southern Pines, NC 28388.

If you want information on volunteering, or if you know an adult who would benefit from these programs, please contact Susan Sherard, Executive Director, at 692-5954.

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The 'problem' incumbent is Ed Nuti

Dear Editor:

Mr. Nuti's article in the "Your Turn" section of the Seven Lakes Times is hogwash! He suggests that if we vote wisely we will not vote for incumbents. Wrong!

But next year when he runs again many of us will take his advice to heart! He says "unless there is diversity on the board membership there is a tendency for too much cronyism" and that "we cannot have clones who regularly act as a bloc." Right! Here he simply ignores the fact that he is one of four clones who form the very "bloc" he devoutly claims to abhor.

"Clones", or a "Bloc", how else could you describe that foursome led by Nuti himself and comprised of Herman, Fathauer, and Richmond? They vote as a

bloc in support of virtually every proposal Nuti or Herman espouse.

This culminated in a truly under-handed and duplicitous vote for the budget in Execu-



tive Session, when the landowners had left the last open meeting with the understanding that the vote on the budget would be tabled until further employee compensation package comparisons could be obtained.

We were also wrong in thinking that as a bloc, they would attempt no further damage. However, on March 6, at a special board meeting called to discuss an entirely different issue, they executed a well-planned effort to remove Treasurer Steve Hudson, by suggesting he either resign from the board or they would remove him as treasurer and chairman of the finance committee. This would have served Nuti nicely in the year ahead.

Mr. Hudson, to his credit, did not do as the bloc of four suggested, he merely rose and exited the meeting. And, he is still our treasurer! These two incidents suggest that Nuti's so-called desire for open and transparent work sessions is nothing

short of a monstrous joke. Everything described above was done behind closed doors and instigated or enthusiastically endorsed by Nuti.

Then, the author goes on to suggest that we should "be more tolerant and accepting of our neighbors" when they break the very rules which he and his committee, with whom he has seldom conferred, have been given the job of re-writing. On more than one occasion he has stated that "rules are made to be broken," or "lets not sweat the small stuff," when they are. I don't recall telling my parents that or, encouraging my sons to think that way.

Lastly, my friends, Nuti didn't just stretch the truth when he stated with a straight face at an

open meeting that he had called all the candidates regarding his suggested change of the venue and format of the monthly board work sessions and that all were agreeable. How he could make such a statement when he never contacted at least three of the six candidates is more than just mind-boggling.

Do vote and do so wisely. All six are excellent candidates. I expect to vote for Douglass, Stephan, Swearingen, and Truesdell, who if elected, will bring a great deal of board or committee experience to the table. Elect these four candidates and you will have a very dedicated, diverse, enthusiastic, energetic, and independent-minded board.

Ron Erskine
Seven Lakes North

CCC's ascendancy is disaster for SLLA

Dear Editor:

It concerns me greatly that Mr. Erskine [Seven Lakes Times, February 2, 2007] feels that the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] work session should not be held at a more convenient time for those of us who work to participate in these meetings, what is the real reason behind Mr. Erskine's objection to having more open participation from SLLA members at the work sessions?

I researched the historical comments from Mr. Erskine that have been published in the *The Times* for the past couple of years. It appears that Mr. Erskine and the Concerned Citizens Council [CCC] are waiting in

the wings to control the SLLA.

This disturbs me greatly, because there is an opportunity for this select group of residents to gain a majority of the position's in the upcoming election.

Let's review the facts:

Don Truesdell – President, informed the Board of Directors that he was a member of the CCC [SLLA Board work session September 22, 2005].

Mary Hudson, wife of Steve Hudson – Treasurer, states that she is a member of the CCC [The Times, September 30, 2005].

Micheal Florence – Secretary, has never stated publicly that he is a member of the CCC,

but, his record speaks for itself in that he supports both Don and Steve on issues.

Ron Erskine has stated "this group [CCC], now has representation running for the Board of Directors who have openly admitted that they would like to see the stables cut or sold to an outsider" [The Times, February 17, 2006].

Jim Gunderson – President of the CCC thanked Swearingen for his service on the Board [The Times, March 31, 2006].

I have no problem with members of the SLLA Board of Directors belonging to any group. I do have a problem with them if they only want to represent a

select group with an agenda to have SLLA become what they feel it should be.

My concern is that if a select group of landowners gain control of the SLLA Board, there

will be drastic change for all landowners residing in Seven Lakes North and South that has disaster written all over it.

John Paulson
Seven Lakes North

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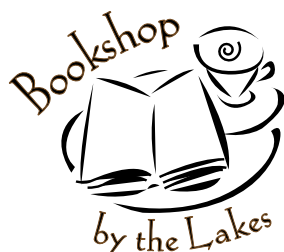
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Oliver defends position on SLLA finances

Dear Editor:

In response to John Paulson's article in the last issue of *The Times*, Mr. Paulson, your lack of factual reporting and stating inaccurate statements attributed to me are appalling.

You probably do not recall my e-mail to you or the following phone call that you made to me. I had discovered facts about the budget and I did not wish to go public without discussing these facts with you. I decided not to go public.

For some reason you have taken upon yourself to put an article in *The Times* and you made statements about me that are false:

1. I never stated that in the previous ten years our reserves never exceeded \$286,000. What I have stated is that our reserves decreased by \$20,000 in an eight to ten year period. The reserves in

1998-99 were \$274,000 or \$276,000. I believe the latter figure is correct. The last figure that I have seen is a reserve now of \$256,000 for 2007.

2. I have further stated that in a four year period our reserves were reduced by \$109,000 as follows:

- a. 2001-02 - reduced by \$57,000.
- b. 2002-03 - increased by \$5,000.
- c. 2003-04 - reduced by \$30,000.
- d. 2004-05 - reduced by \$27,000

Total Reduction \$109,000

3. I have also stated that for these years and up to the 2007-08 budget, our staff have had increases to their payroll and benefits. I would have thought as Treasurer you might have questioned the 2004-05 reduction as you were on

board that year.

4. I questioned the \$414,000 reserves on April 30. You show no year, but I believe it was 2005. I reported to the board that the reserves they were showing for that year did not indicate the anticipated expense for the dam and tennis courts. At that time I believe the board estimated the dam cost as over \$200,000 and the tennis courts at \$40-\$45,000. I stated at that meeting a truer reserve figure should be in the \$200,000 range. You were late for the meeting and you may have not heard the entire presentation. However, when I finished you made what I felt was an inappropriate comment on how long I talked. I replied as long as I wanted. My remarks were written and read by me for less than four minutes.

5. Having taken an accounting

course many years ago at the Wharton Graduate School, I know one can do tricks with figures. The papers have been full of such conduct by large firms.

Your comments about tennis are equally unfounded and inaccurate. The hard courts were in unplayable condition. Cracks as deep as one and a half inches were present. The courts were unsafe.

The board approved about \$45,000 for the repaving of the courts. The best court and price for our recreational tennis players was "Flex Court".

We got three courts for about \$40,000 and a ten to fifteen year guarantee. Most hard courts carry a one to two year guarantee.

I do not know your qualifications for discussing tennis, but I have over sixty-five years of tennis experience as a player, college coach, and as Master Tennis Professional. One other person you mention has over fifty years of tennis experience.

Charles W. Oliver,
Colonel USAF (Retired)
Seven Lakes North

Detox & renewal workshop

Nutritional consultant Mweia Uqoezwa, MS, CHC, will present a workshop on detox and renewal at Seven Lakes Massage and Body Therapies on Saturday, March 24, from 10:30 am to Noon.

Physical toxins can accumulate in the body in many ways – the food we eat, the environment we live in, and daily emotional stresses all add to the toxic overload in our systems.

A research scientist with a Master's degree in Pharmacology and Toxicology from Duke

University, and training at the Institute of Integrative Nutrition in New York, Uqoezwa brings a wealth of information to empower you to take steps to transform your health.

This interactive seminar will teach you what detox means and its importance, how to safely and gently prepare your body for change, which foods optimize this process with easy recipes to enjoy, and how to create a cleansing program customized to you.

Uqoezwa's passion for good

food, natural healing, and self-renewal will make this presentation an enjoyable and inspiring experience.

For more information or to reserve a seat, call 673-2000. Cost is \$15 for early registration, or \$20 per person at the door.



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Paulson: Who spent the reserve fund?

Dear Editor:

After attending the open Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] meeting on February 28, I came away with the opinion that, according to statements from our current Treasurer, Steve

Hudson, I was the cause of all the excessive waste of the SLLA funds for the past four years and beyond.

Well, I can well understand how a "semi-retired cable installer" can arrive at such a conclusion.

After all, Mr. Hudson was elected to the Board of Directors with years of experience running a business, "A native of Greensboro and a graduate of Guilford College, Hudson has owned and operated a number of small busi-

nesses, including an English tack shop and two seafood restaurants." [Seven Lakes Times, February 17, 2006.

Mr. Hudson stated that during my watch the Board did not set aside the \$125,000 for paving that

had been passed during the February 2006 work session. Well, the money was left in the Reserve Fund, unless Mr. Hudson and his associates have spent it like there is no tomorrow.

(See "Paulson" p. 31)

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THOROUGHLY UPDATED & MAINTAINED! Nice location with some acreage yet convenient to town. Over 2000 sq ft in main house, new kitchen & windows, hardwood floors, plus in-ground pool w/pool house, detached garage, storage. This property has much to offer for **\$195,000!**



HILLTOP ESTATE! Dream home on 3.5 acres w/20 x 40 pool w/waterfall, pool house w/bath & storage rm; 34 x 36 Barn-Workshop. 4000+ sf, 4BR/3.5BA, 18' clgs. in Fam. Rm & Foyer, 2 story stone fplc, hdw floors w/granite inlays and lots of 7' arched windows on back overlooking covered porch & pool. Owner/Broker **\$575,000**



LOVELY, LIKE-NEW 2 STORY ON CORNER LOT! With 5 BR's and 3.5 baths, this west-side home offers quality throughout. Oversized rooms to incl.: large eat-in kitchen, LR, DR, Master suite on main level. Relax outside on the front porch or the rear deck that overlooks the swimming pool. Beautifully landscaped, great location & price! **Offered at \$369,000**



FABULOUS VIEWS OF 4TH GREEN, POND & FAIRWAY FROM THIS GOLF FRONT ON SLCC! Over 2,400 sq. ft., open floor plan, 3 BR, 3 BA, living rm, dining rm, Sun Rm plus walkout basement with room for entertaining. 2 fpl, basement workshop, new appliances, lots of storage, deck & patio **REDUCED! \$225,000**



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GOLF FRONT BEAUTY ON 4TH HOLE OF SLCC! — Situated on a double lot and barely lived in. A functional split-BR plan with no wasted space & many fine features, large family rm. with French doors leading to light & airy kitchen with solid surf. tops, hardwood in main areas, ceramic tile, 9 ft ceilings, screen porch & more. **A super home listed at \$225,000**



A DELIGHTFUL SEVEN LAKES DEAL! — Lovely North Side home has all the necessities & more. Sunny entry opens to a living/kitchen great room with breakfast bar & dining space. Carolina rm just off the living room providing additional space. Extras include: rear deck, fenced backyard, roomy master suite, lots of closets, 2-car garage w/ built in shelving. **\$175,000**



UPDATED COTTAGE IN EXCELLENT CONDITION NEAR SCHOOLS & 7 LAKES! A great home, affordably priced with lots of updates to include a completely remodeled kitchen, new laminate flooring, roof 2 years old. Other extras include pine walls & flooring in LR, fenced backyard, detached 16x20 workshop. **A great deal for \$99,000!**



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Paulson has facts wrong on SLLA finances

Thank you to the Women of Seven Lakes, especially President Peg McCallum, and Linda Tableman, who served as moderator, for hosting the Seven Lakes Landowners Association Candidates Night on Wednesday, March 7. There was an excellent turnout and the candidates were confronted with nine challenging questions.

I need to respond to comments made by John Paulson, previous Treasurer of the Seven Lakes

Landowners Association, that appeared in *The Seven Lakes Times*' March 2 issue. Mr. Paulson's comments simply do not reflect the facts. Let's start with the tennis courts.

The Seven Lakes Landowners Association Board in their capital budget for FY06 had included \$25,000 to resurface the tennis courts.

No repairs were made to the tennis courts in FY06 and the tennis courts still remained a problem.

On June 22, 2006, the Board, with all Directors present, unanimously approved a motion made by Jack Fathauer and seconded by Ed Nuti to resurface our tennis courts with a USTA approved Flex-Court surface. The Flex-

free surface that over a twenty-five year period will not cost the landowners any additional money.

Was there any other prudent choice?

On July 10, 2006, the Board, with all Directors present except Herman and Richmond, unanimously approved a motion made by Steve Hudson and seconded by Michael Florence to install the barcode gates and the security cameras.

What Mr. Paulson conveniently forgets to tell you is that there is an ongoing cash stream that will pay for these additional amenities in less than three years. So far we have sold 2000 barcode labels at \$15.00 per label, or \$30,000, and we were able to reduce the South Side gate coverage from sixteen hours per day to twelve hours per day resulting in an annual savings of \$18,000. The additional benefit of the cameras is we now have twenty-four hour — seven days a week coverage at six selected sites.

Mr. Paulson should be ashamed to take credit for increasing our FY06 year end cash reserve to \$414,000. He was one of five Directors out of a total of seven who were insis-

tent on maintaining the company police.

When this issue finally went to a binding referendum on December 11, 2005, the ballot that was used was written by these five Directors. The ballot specified that the company police would be disbanded on April 30, 2006, four and a half months after the binding referendum, and two weeks before the binding referendum, and these five directors proceeded to hire the second company police officer! These actions cost the landowners over \$30,000.

The FY06 budget did include funding for two company police officers and the purchase of a second company police car. If these plans had been allowed to

go forward the cost to the landowners in the first year would have been \$115,000 (\$90,000 in salary and benefits and \$25,000 for the second company police car). The year end cash reserves would have been \$299,000 instead of the \$414,000 and the budgets for the following years would have included expenses of at least \$90,000.

The results of the binding referendum conducted on December 11, 2005, showed that a total of 720 ballots cast 461 landowners or 64% voted to disband while only 259 landowners or 36% voted to maintain. How could these five directors be so out of touch with the overwhelming wishes of their constituents?

MEMO:

Board Notes

Don Truesdell
Seven Lakes
Landowners Board

Court surface was selected for the following two reasons:

1. This surface has a ten year guarantee with an expected life of twenty-five years. If we had chosen to repave the tennis courts, the initial cost would have been at least the same as the Flex-Court surface and the maximum guarantee on repaving is one year;
2. The Flex-Court surface requires no maintenance whereas a paved surface does require maintenance.

The benefits to the landowners is we now have a mainte-

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per-se-vere : to persist in an undertaking in spite of counter influences or discouragement.¹

1. Websters New Collegiate Dictionary, 1977.

Who has the real numbers?

If you've slogged through the paper to the point that you're reading this column, then you are probably as thoroughly confused about the state of Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] finances as I am. Either that — or you saw all the dollar signs in all those letters to the editor and skipped ahead until your eyes landed on the friendly image of a shovel and wheelbarrow and figured it was safe to read this.

I hate to disappoint, but I'm going to talk about finances.

led about the other day: "Figures lie, and liars figure."

Fortunately, there aren't any liars here.

I have it on good authority that the financial committees appointed by both Mr. Paulson and Mr. Hudson did excellent work in analyzing the community's books.

Unfortunately, the community, thus far, has never really seen the fruits of those labors.

Paulson's committee, if it made a report, never shared it with the community.

And Hudson's committee had its work undermined on February 28, when the community got to hear only the bits

and pieces that cast an unfavorable light on the Community Manager.

So now the principals on both sides are throwing numbers around like hand grenades and inviting the rest of us to chose up sides without any practical means of sorting out who's right and who's wrong.

Frankly, I need more credible, complete, unvarnished, straightforward, spin-free information on SLLA finances. And I bet you'd like to have the same thing.

So, here's what we need — and should demand — after the SLLA Annual Meeting and elections are concluded:

First, the Board will appoint a new Finance Committee which should include: one member of Hudson's finance committee; one member of Paulson's finance committee; a CPA or banker or former CPA or banker; somebody who doesn't know diddly about finance but has good communication skills; the SLLA Treasurer; Dalton Fulcher; and Vicky Strider.

Second, that committee will develop an easy to understand, two-or-three-page financial report to be distributed to the membership at least four times a year (or, preferably, monthly). It will include something like a standard year-to-date and current

(See "Numbers," p. 34)

Digging Deeper

Greg Hankins



In the preceding pages we've heard opinions on SLLA Finances from former SLLA Treasurer John Paulson, current Finance Committee member Charlie Oliver, current SLLA President Don Truesdell, and former Finance Committee member Bud Shaver, all responding to things written or reported to have been said by former SLLA Treasurer John Paulson, current SLLA Treasurer Steve Hudson, current Finance Committee member Charlie Oliver, and current SLLA President Don Truesdell.

If you add all of that up together, there has been less light than heat in this issue of *The Times*.

That is not entirely the fault of our erstwhile correspondents, who are all decent folk, or, as the Bard might put it, "honorable men."

But financial analysis pressed into the service of political ends inevitably obfuscates rather than enlightens, because politics demands trumpeting one fact and suppressing another, while real financial analysis is a fairly technical and bloodless business.

Or, if that sentence was too convoluted, there's the old saw that Charlie Oliver and I chuck-



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Work Session

(Continued from front page)

"has been very generous with our employees." Oliver said that he found salary increases, bonuses, and/or enhancements to benefits every year during that period. He said he believed that the same pattern would hold going back eighteen years.

Dodie Mulready told the Board she would rather see the community hire people than buy technology like the new barcode gates. She noted that the Association has so far paid \$83,000 for the gates and related camera equipment and recouped only \$28,000. She said that the system would require ongoing costs of nearly \$9,000 per year for networking.

"I'd prefer we give a person a job," Mulready said.

Laurie Werner pointed to inaccuracies in figures that Truesdell, who is running for re-election, had cited in his answers to *Seven*

Lakes Times questions in the March 2 edition. Truesdell listed a \$9,290 increase in Association payments into employee retirement accounts, Werner said, when the actual increase is only \$418.

He also noted that SLLA employees have not participated in a Health Care Savings Account, Werner continued, but failed to mention that funds deposited in the account revert to the Association if not used by the employee within a given year.

Amanda Keller asked how many security companies were investigated before the Board decided to invest nearly \$90,000 with the vendor of the barcode gates. Truesdell said the Board would get back to her with an answer.

Later in the meeting, the Board offered an opportunity for public comment from residents who

had signed up in advance.

Charlie Oliver said he had come to answer Board members questions about the financial report, because he had read in *The Times* that some board members, including Jeff Herman, had some concerns about the accuracy of the figures.

"I have no concerns," Herman said, though Oliver appeared unconvinced.

Ron Erskine then offered a blistering condemnation of a motion made in a March 6 Executive Session to remove Steve Hudson as Treasurer. Blaming Herman, Jack Fathauer, Ron Richmond, and Ed Nuti for the attempt, Erskine saved his strongest language for Nuti, who was away on vacation.

"He, who has written our by-laws has already been a party to their violation," Erskine said. "He, who pretends to advocate greater landowner participation and

greater transparency in all of the board's meetings and deliberations; and who professes over and over, to abhor cronyism and political blocs; has violated everything he espouses."

Herman noted later in the meeting that sanctions against Hudson [See page 1.] had been approved by a majority of the Board.

Bud Shaver took a turn at the mic to scold Hudson for discussing in open session financial and personnel matters that should have been more properly handled within the financial committee.

Taking a completely different tack, Jack McCarthy asked the Board to consider the fact that most of the damage done to Seven Lakes roads is done by the heavy trucks used by contractors.

Though public comment filled the bulk of the meeting, the

board did attend to a few other matters:

- Cast secret ballots to determine how any proxies assigned to the board will be voted at the annual meeting.
- Heard from Elections Committee Chairman Al Geiger that he will be joined by Roger Myrick, Peter Sonderfan, and Al Smith in counting the ballots.
- Heard from Truesdell that a meeting would be held on Thursday to attempt to reach a compromise with Seven Lakes Country Club over their driving range project.
- Heard reports from committee chairmen on recreation, security, finance, and Architectural review.

Board members meet in Executive Session after the Work Session, apparently to discuss a possible settlement of the lawsuit Southsider Alan Shaw has

Numbers

(Continued from page 33)

month profit and loss statement with comparisons to prior year and to budget, as well as a report that shows the current amount and location of all SLLA deposits, including any funds reserved for specific purposes. The committee should take a look at the quarterly report that Paulson developed and then abandoned during his tenure as Treasurer and at the very detailed reports that Seven Lakes West Landowners Association Treasurer Virgil Reid distributes at every general meeting of that

Association. Either would make a good starting point.

Third, the SLLA Board will bite the bullet and realize that it is a private government, and as such, the compensation packages of each of its employees should be a matter of public record. If you wanted it, I could find out tomorrow what any county or municipal employee in the state is paid and what their other benefits cost the taxpayers — from the county manager to the guy who mows the courthouse lawn. If any of the SLLA employees were working for Moore

County, or the Village of Foxfire, their compensation would be a matter of public record. Yes, that is uncomfortable for employees, but it is the price of having a taxpayer-supported job. It is true that the SLLA is a private corporation; it is not true that anything in the North Carolina General Statutes prevents the SLLA from revealing the compensation packages of its employees. The attempt to maintain an unnecessary secrecy about SLLA employee compensation is the root cause of much of the suspicion and many of the unfound-

ed rumors about SLLA finances. It's time to put an end to this by ending the secrecy.

Fourth, the fine folks that we select to look after our community will quit using financial analysis as a weapon of choice, thereby confusing the public. If you guys want to duke it out, we'll supply the boxing gloves, provided you give us enough notice to get a photographer to the event.

During the SLLA Candidates'

Night last week, Loren Swearingen noted that "politics in Seven Lakes is getting to be a contact sport" played out in a "toxic" environment. He's right, and that's wrong and a disservice to this fine community.

We need to demand from our elected leaders consistent accountability and the regular, accurate, complete, unbiased information that we need to make sure they are fulfilling the responsibilities of their office.

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Hudson responds to board

by Steve Hudson
SLLA Treasurer

I would like to tell you, the landowners, that on Feb. 28, the board went into closed session and after that business was taken care of, Jack, Ron, Ed, and Jeff pushed forwards the vote on accepting Dalton's budget. This was done behind closed doors, under the table, and behind your back!

This action took away your right to voice your opinion on the budget, whether you were for it or against it! The big surprise to me was Ed Nuti voting to shut you the landowner out of this process, even though he has expressed time after time to keep the landowners involved and to be open! I guess actions do speak louder than words!

On Wednesday, March 6, we

had a special meeting, and, after that business was over, Jeff Herman took over. With the backing of Ed, Jack, and Ron, they started their planned attack on me for the finance committee report which I had given on the 28th.

The report brought out many of the problems that we have and does *not* paint our community manager in a favorable light. The report is based on copies of board minutes, paid receipts, and past budgets, as well as face to face interviews.

I was then given an ultimatum or threat by Jeff Herman, to either resign from the board or I would be voted out as Treasurer. I told them that I would not resign!

I also knew what they had already decided to do since they

usually voted together with their four votes. It was at this point that I got up and left.

I later got an e-mail stating that I was to print a retraction in the paper and read a statement at the annual meeting on March 25.

I refused to do either of these things! Our reports are based on facts!

I now have a piece of advice for you four. Unlike you, this is not a threat, nor is it an ultimatum, it's just a simple fact.

I have been in contact with the North Carolina Department of Justice, our states Attorney Generals office. If I were you four, I would tread very lightly! I do not back down from a four to one threat! Just remember, three of you only have eleven days left on the board!

Nuti apologizes for Hudson's report

For those Seven Lakes residents who attended the February 28 meeting of the Seven Lakes Landowners' Board of Directors expecting to hear a discussion of the 2007-2008 proposed budget, it was most disappointing.

We owe you an apology for what was presented to you by our Treasurer.

Instead of giving us a true financial report, Mr. Hudson chose to use the opportunity to present factually inaccurate information, to engage in disparaging innuendo toward our Community Manager, and to once again revisit isolated incidents in the past to suggest inappropriate behavior by Mr. Fulcher.

Such conduct was unbecoming a Director, was embarrassing to the Board, and inherently defamatory.

Mr. Hudson was subsequently chastised and sanctioned by a unanimous Board vote to make a public apology as well as to make a retraction of his deliberate and unfortunate assertions in *The Times*. The Board sincerely hopes that he does so.

MEMO:

Board Notes

Ed Nuti
Seven Lakes
Landowners Board

The decorum of our Board in all community activities and deliberations is essential to maintain the integrity of our actions, and inappropriate behavior cannot be condoned. Please accept the Board's apology for this occurrence.

Hudson

(Continued from front page)

ciated" and had not been handled appropriately. Herman disputed the accuracy of a number of the report's claims, Hudson said, including the allegation that Community Manager Dalton Fulcher had paid too much for a dump truck and the claim that that funds that were to have been set aside for paving were in fact not placed in a separate account.

Herman charged that Hudson had "maligned the Community Manager," and said portions of the financial report "bordered on slander."

"This was really an attack on me because I had pointed out what an analysis by the Finance Committee had found," Hudson told *The Times*.

"The ultimatum was that I could resign as board member, or they would vote me off as Treasurer and chair of finance committee," Hudson said. "The landowners voted me on. The board can't remove me."

"I told them that it doesn't matter what I say anymore," Hudson said. "It's pointless to go on. You've decided what you are going to do. I'm not resigning."

At that point, Hudson told *The Times*, he walked out of the meeting.

Nuti said he made the motion to remove Hudson as Treasurer. The SLLA bylaws give the direc-

tors the authority to remove an officer from his post, but they do not give directors the right to remove a director from the board. Only a vote of the landowners can accomplish that.

"I made the motion to remove him as Treasurer," Nuti said. "[Ron] Richmond seconded." Jack Fathauer joined Nuti and Richmond in voting to remove Hudson.

But when the vote came around to Herman he proposed an alternative — that Hudson cor-

rect his financial report in *The Times* and at the Annual Meeting. Once that proposal was put into the form of a motion, it was approved by five of the six directors present after Hudson left the room, according to both Nuti and Florence.

Hudson did not submit the required retraction for publication in this issue of *The Times*, but he did provide us with his statement refusing to retract his committee's report, which is printed in full above.



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By SANDY STEWART

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School board

(Continued from front page)

ment numbers have been climbing with the addition of approximately two hundred new students each year. "We expect this rate to increase in years to come," said Purser.

Enrollment anticipated for Fall 2007 at West End Elementary is 580 students. West Pine Middle School is expected to support 769 students, and Pinecrest High School will draw 2097 students.

Due to the enlarged student body population and staffing requirements at West End Elementary School, the proposed budget suggests expanding the current shared, half-time assistant principal position to full time.

Last year, salary increases were not included in the budget, but the state required percentage increases to be met. During 2006-07, MCS was forced to absorb an after-budget expense of \$650,000 for employee compensation. The proposed 2007-08 budget includes an additional \$650,000 set aside for salary increase requirements by the state.

Other required expenses that are non-negotiable, and have appreciable increases; health insurance, \$190,000, or 14%; retirement, \$102,000, representing a 1% increase; Worker's compensation of \$159,000; liability property insurance, \$21,000, a 15% increase; and energy services, \$115,000, a 17% increase.

The energy cost increase is despite conscientious and frugal efforts by staff and teachers to reduce energy waste, plus a mild winter. In fact, noted Purser, BTU usage per square foot has shown reductions each year, lowering from 59,019 BTU/sf in 2002, to 53,630 BTU/sf in 2006.

The ninety-four proposed Smart classrooms, accounting for \$255,680 of budget expenses, will be phased-in and divided amongst the three current county high schools. These classrooms will feature a SMART Board Interactive Whiteboard, LCD projector, and a network ready, multi-media computer system to include a DVD player, speakers, media reader, and USB data key.

The Athletic Task Force proposes providing four additional months of coaching employ-

ment, two of those months allotted to Pinecrest High School, with each individual school determining which sport would best be served. The Athletic Director positions are also recommended to expand from part time to full time enabling staff time to coordinate and ensure continuity between the high school and middle school sports programming.

The Alternative Education Task Force proposes funding to provide transportation for students assigned to middle and high school alternative programs. Currently it is the student's responsibility to secure transportation within alternative education program.

Additionally, the proposed budget seeks support to hire five new special needs teachers at the middle school level and to purchase three new mobile classroom units.

There will be a public hearing to discuss the budget next Monday, March 19, at 7:00 pm in the MCS administrative building in Carthage.

Resolutions

Several resolutions were adopted by the Board on Monday night — most significantly, support of a statewide \$2 billion Public School Facility Bond Referendum and encouragement for the General Assembly to "take such actions as are necessary to allow the people of North Carolina to express their views through a public vote...to benefit the children of North Carolina."

Additionally, the Board approved a letter to be sent to the General Assembly requesting support of revisions to the calendar bill, specifically aligning the MCS K-12 calendar with that of Sandhills Community College and reinstating five professional development days for teachers.

"This will allow us to regain some working days for teachers that were lost when the calendar was revised several years ago," said Bruce Cunningham, Jr. MCS Board Chair.

Other resolutions approved at the March meeting included new procedures for protecting personal information for employees and students, providing duty-free lunch period and instructional planning time for teachers, and

a preference for the selection and use of North Carolina architectural firms.

School Bus Watch

The Moore County School transportation program is the first school district in North Carolina to have its bus drivers certified in the School Bus Watch program. Approximately 110 bus drivers and monitors recently completed training in identifying and reporting situations that could present a danger to students.

The School Bus Watch program is a federal program designed by the National Association of Pupil Transportation Services and the National School Transportation Association in cooperation with the Highway Watch program. It was developed to educate bus drivers on how to identify, evaluate, and report unusual activity. The ultimate

goal of the School Bus Watch program is to prevent terrorists from using large vehicles, like school buses, to take American citizens as hostage.

The School Bus Watch program will be more effective with the purchase and installation of two-way radios for all buses, an important safety measure included for funding in the Superintendent's Budget proposal.

Accepting an award presented by the Board for his work in the School Bus Watch program, Charles McDowell, Executive Supervisor for Transportation, said "I want to thank the parents of Moore County for entrusting us to take your children to school."

Peace Poster Winner

Deaton Wright, an eighth grade student at West Pine Middle School, was honored by the Board for winning first place in the

local Peace Poster competition, sponsored by the Seven Lakes Lions Club, and again winning at the statewide competition. His poster, among the 350,000 entries submitted to the annual Lions International Peace Poster Contest, now goes on to the international level.

West Pine Art Teacher Michelle Morris accompanied Wright and offered her congratulations, "This has been such a morale and confidence booster for him. I am so proud of what he has accomplished."

Public Address

Four students, representing the ninety-four members of the Pinecrest High School Debate Club, addressed the School Board at the Monday, March 12, meeting.

"We ask that you recognize us as a team, and that you fund

(See "Schools," p. 37)

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Foxfire

(Continued from page 4)
Country Club.

Zoning
Mayor Erickson read a letter of resignation received from Zoning Administrator Frank Holloway expressing his thanks for the opportunity and privilege to serve as part of the team. Holloway's letter stated that he was resigning for personal reasons.

Presenting for Holloway, Erickson said two new homes had been approved, along with one accessory building approved in the extra-territorial jurisdiction [ETJ]. Eight certificates of occupancy were issued. There are now with forty homes under construction:


Schools

(Continued from page 36)
us as a team," said Cameron Tysinger, Club President. Unlike teams, school clubs do not receive county funding.

Student and club member Jessica Boylan stated that their expenses are currently being met through independent fundraising efforts but that the time required to raise this money could be better spent in debate practice.

"Tournament expenses include hotels and registration fees. It costs approximately \$45 per person to register in a local tournament and we have entered fifteen competitions just this year," said Boylan.

Reminding the School Board that public speaking is an essential skill in business and society, the four members spoke eloquently of the need for funding, and for granting them recognition and status as an official team.

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struction: thirty-two within the village and eight in the ETJ.

Community-Club Relations
Councilman Carl Munro reported that the Country Club is assuming the beach property and will allow the community to continue to use the property, with Club permission.

Pubic Safety
Councilman Carl Munro reported that three resumes for the patrolman position are under review and initial interviews will be scheduled by March 20. Interviews for the Chief of Police position will be held in early April, with a candidate selected by the end of April.

The new police vehicle is in, reported Munro, and will not be marked with Foxfire Village Police Department striping. The Village will retain the two marked and striped old police vehicles,

including the Chief's car.
The Village lot to be burned has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 20, as a training project for West End Fire Department.
Councilman Munro said Community Emergency Rescue Training [CERT] will begin in mid-April to mid-May. Participants are in the process of deciding when and how long each training class should be scheduled.
During the public comment period, Foxfire resident Georgia Adams suggested a street-light be installed at the Town Hall parking lot entrance.

Water
Councilman Ed Lauer reports two major initiatives, one short term and one long term.
The software program for water billing is being upgraded from a DOS-based platform to Windows. The most noticeable effect of this change is water bills will

be issued on a monthly basis, rather than every other month. The cost to make this change is minimal and it will allow the Village to monitor water usage more closely and respond faster to major leaks. The new program should be in place by the end of June.
The long term water initiative reported by Lauer is the study of future Village water needs and alternative water sources. "We have to look elsewhere than

Moore County for water. They don't have any!" stated Lauer. Currently, the Village is conducting a cost analysis of the well system versus buying bulk water from neighboring counties.
Additionally, it was noted that the Village water tower will need to be replaced eventually. Mayor Erickson responded, "The Supplemental Water Fund was originally set up as a long term resource to fund tower replace-

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- 110 Dennis Circle \$260,000**
Waterfront Lake Auman. Cove lot, ready to be built on.
- 112 Dennis Circle \$250,000**
Lake Auman cove lot (lot next door is also for sale).

CLASSIFIEDS

**ANTIQUES/PRIMITIVES
BOUGHT/SOLD**

MEDLEYANNA'S – of West End. Will buy, sell or trade. Call 673-JUNK (5865) or 947-3759, ask for Harriet or Jerry.

**HELP
WANTED**

ORGANIST NEEDED – for active 500 member West End Presbyterian Church. Send resume to: Sarah Reid, 3437 Seven Lakes West, West End, NC 27376.

**FOR SALE
MISCELLANEOUS**

LITTLE RASCAL PORTABLE SCOOTER – Brand new, retails for \$4800. Will sell for \$2500. Call 910-895-4930. *1tc 3/16*

JEWELRY LOTTO – at 128 Hastings, Seven Lakes South. Make a match. Bring your favorite sweater or top to the Frye's and match it with a necklace, earrings, or bracelet on Saturday, March 17 9:00 am - 4:00 pm and Sunday, March 18 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm. 910-673-2398.

RAINBOW – REXAIR – water filtered vacuums. Sales, service, supplies. Shown by appointment in your home or our store. Cox Dist. 948-2926 or 246-2926.

**FOR RENT
STORAGE BUILDINGS**

HILLCREST MINI WAREHOUSE, LLC — Affordable storage in Seven Lakes. Units are located at 351 Grant Street, across from K.R. Mace Electric. Unit sizes – 10x10, 10x20. Units have lighting. Call 910-673-7320 for rental information. Urgent calls may be directed to 910-690-6491.

**FOR RENT
REAL ESTATE**

COMMERCIAL RENTAL – Office space 720 sq. ft., along with 3480 sq. ft of warehouse space in Seven Lakes. Available May 1. Call for details. 910-673-6383 or 910-315-6383.

**FOR RENT
REAL ESTATE**

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT – Available now, high profile location. 720 sq. ft., Central Park Bldg, 1030 Seven Lakes Drive. Call 673-4800. *tfn 8/4*

7 LAKES NORTH – Built 05', 3bd/2ba ranch, pet friendly, \$1,000/mth. Call 910-673-5278 or 673-3133.

PROFESSIONAL OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT – High profile location includes lobby, multiple offices, conference room, full kitchen, multiple bathrooms. 1035 Seven Lakes Drive. Available now . Call 910-673-1929.

OFFICE/RETAIL SPACE FOR RENT – Woodlawn Square next to West End Post Office. \$600/mo. Call 910-673-0004.

CUSTOM BUILT LAKEVIEW HOME FOR RENT – View the Sunrise! 3BR/2.5BA, GR,DR, Great Kitchen! Open Floor Plan, Lg. Master Suite, Walk-in closet, whirlpool & shower, Patio, yard maint. Inc. Non-smokers, no pets, one years lease, deposit and references required. \$1500 per month. 910-673-3603.

SEVEN LAKES WEST
Short Term rental - 3BR/2BA
Overlooking pond. Call
Wayne 910-295-2288 or Pat
910-673-5183.

7 LAKES SOUTH COUNTRY CLUB GOLF FRONT – with green view, situated on 2 lots. 3BR/2BA, 2car garage, screened patio. Owner will consider lease to own. 910-603-4746.

7 LAKES SOUTH COUNTRY CLUB GOLF FRONT – with green view, situated on 2 lots. 3BR/2BA, 2car garage, screened patio. Owner will consider lease to own. 910-603-4746.

**FOR RENT
REAL ESTATE**

7 LAKES SOUTH GOLF FRONT – 5BR/3.5BA, hardwood & new carpets, bonus room, enclosed Carolina Rm, large eat-in kitchen, formal dining, formal living, gas burning fireplace, Master w/walk-in shower, jacuzzi tub, fireplace, with private sitting area overlooking green. A/C in workshop, 2-car garage, attic storage. Green and pond views. 4500 sq. ft home, w/handicap access. 910-603-4746.

7 LAKES SOUTH COUNTRY CLUB GOLF FRONT – 3BR/2BA, with open floor plan, with lake and golf views. 2 car enclosed garage. Fenced yard. Owner will consider lease to own. Call 910-603-4746.

**FOR SALE
REAL ESTATE**

LAKE FRONT HOME ON LAKE AUMAN – For sale by appointment only. Call Tom McGinnis for information and scheduling at The Property Center 910-673-1724 or (cell) 910-315-9127.

7 LAKES SOUTH COUNTRY CLUB GOLF FRONT – 3BR/2BA, with open floor plan, w/lake and golf views. 2 car enclosed garage. Fenced yard. Owner will consider lease to own. 910-603-4746.

FSBO 7 LAKES WEST – 2005 built ranch w/distinctive exterior, 3-4 BR, 2.5 BA, large, open floor plan, granite and s/s kitchen, 11' ceilings, hardwoods and tile,

oversized 2.5 car garage, prof. landscaping w/irrigation, many, many extras, \$329,900. 910.673.1933. *3tp 3/2*

7 LAKES SOUTH GOLF FRONT – 5BR/3.5BA, hardwood & new carpets, bonus room, enclosed Carolina Rm, large eat-in kitchen, formal dining, formal living, gas burning fireplace, Master w/walk-in shower, jacuzzi tub, fireplace, with private sitting area overlooking green. A/C in workshop, 2-car garage, attic storage. Green and pond views. 4500 sq. ft home, w/handicap access. 910-603-4746.

7 LAKES SOUTH COUNTRY CLUB GOLF FRONT – with green view, situated on 2 lots. 3BR/2BA, 2car garage, screened patio. Owner will consider lease to own. 910-603-4746.

7 LAKES NORTH – Two 3BR/2BA house for sale. \$150,000-\$160,000. Will consider lease/option with sizable down payment. 910-673-1108.

**FOR SALE
LOTS**

SEVEN LAKES WEST – corner water view lot. Walking distance to the amenities. Perks for 4BR house. Survey avail. Call Jill at Foxfire Resort Realty. 910-255-0092 or 910-315-1346. *tfn 3/16*

LAKE AUMAN WATERFRONT LOT – (3455A/3455B), located on Baker Circle, new bulkhead, current perk test. Call at Stephanie Hill Real Estate Services (910) 215-8400 or (910) 603-5678.

1.7 ACRES OF PRIVACY – on a cul de sac close to Beacon Ridge Country Club. \$85,000. Call Tom McGinnis, Broker/REALTOR, The Property Center 910-315-9127.

SEVEN LAKES WEST – Combination water front, water view lots for sale 3156 & 4107. \$285,000. Great view from both lots. Call Fred at The Property Center 910-673-1724 or 1-800-334-7869. *tfn 9/29*

SEVEN LAKES WEST – Double lot 0.96 acre. 215/217 Longleaf Dr. Walking distance to BR Clubhouse. Nice pines. New perc. \$79,000. 910-673-2344.

FSBO MORGANWOOD – Prime Lot. 5.7 acres. Lot #51. Call. 673-3445. *3tp 3/16*

GOLF FRONT LOT, Beacon Ridge Drive. Excellent location and views. Premier Property Real Estate, Lisa Stewart, 603-4500.

7 LAKES SOUTH-Lot 2072. \$31,000. Great Building Lot. Call Ed Gosselin at Weichert, REALTORS, Larose & Company, 910-850-7780 or 910-693-3300.

1.2 ACRE LOT ON 7 ACRE LAKE, West End. Premier Property Real Estate, Lisa Stewart, 603-4500

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CLASSIFIEDS

Seven Lakes Times
March 16, 2007

FOR SALE LOTS AND LAND

6.5 ACRES MORGANWOOD – Seven Lakes West. Picturesque equestrian lot with stream. A Must See. Asking \$127,900. All serious offers considered. Call Judy at The Property Center. 910-673-1724.

13+ ACRES MORGANWOOD at Seven Lakes West, horses permitted, cleared, established pastures & nice pond! \$24,900 per acre; **GOLF FRONT - FOXFIRE**, level, cleared building lot, spectacular views, \$38,500 OBO. **40 ACRES** bordering **Pinewild CC**, rolling Bermuda fields, large pond, owner/broker \$11,900 per acre. **TAMMY LYNE, BROKER** 910-235-0208. www.Tammy-Lyne.com or email: MarketValue@Pinehurst.net

BOATS FOR SALE

BOATS FOR SALE – Need a boat? Choplin's Got It! Ski-Wakeboard-Deck-Pontoon-Bass and Saltwater Boats. Full service to Seven Lakes area only a few minutes away. Choplin Marine in Sanford. Call 919-776-1004 or www.choplinboats.com

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Call 673-0111

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

HOME IMPROVEMENTS – Interior and exterior painting, dry wall repair, carpentry, flooring, water damage repairs. Call Mark 690-1814 or 673-3016. *3tp 3/16*

JOHN KELLY MAINTENANCE & REPAIR LLC– 25 yrs of experience, no job too small. Seven Lakes resident. Call 673-1605.

BRING BOTTLE WATER QUALITY TO YOUR HOME – Is something wrong with your water? With the touch of your finger, you can have Purified Water. Call DB Services. 910-639-2111 or 910-673-3002 Dan Graham.

SEVEN LAKES DENTAL STUDIO – Repairs of dentures, acrylic partials, and relines. Same day service available. All work will be done only through your local dentist. Tom Wasilewski, 336 MacDougall Drive, Seven Lakes. 673-1613.

OFFICE HELP — Does your firm have temporary, part/full-time, or contractual IT or office staff needs? Maybe I can help. I have experience in PCs, printers, networking, software, upgrades, and general office equipment. Please email WestSideSolutions@nc.rr.com with your contact information and details of your needs. No job too small. Resume and references available upon request.

HORTON'S LAWN SERVICE – Groundskeepers, completed lawn maintenance. Services include mow/vacuum lawns, edge, aerate, fertilize, de-thatch, weed control, trim/prune shrubs, shrub removal, shrub plantings, pine mulch, pine straw sales, leaf removal and tree work. Roof and gutters. Repair gravel driveways, grading. Also available: Interior Home Cleaning and Laundry. Call Rick @910-673-3405 or 910-639-5206.

SHOT GUNS & RIFLES – cleaned and refinished. 910-673-7623. *pd.3.30.07*

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES — serving Seven Lakes, Foxfire, and Pinehurst w/lawn maintenance & more for residential and commercial customers. Year round service. Mowing, weed eating, picking up debris, blowing. Shrub pruning, limb & tree removal and hauling away. Seeding/sod lawns. Leaf & straw removal. Haul and spread pine straw, bark, soil, gravel and mulch. Aerate, de-thatch, and edge lawns. Weeding of flower beds, planting shrubs. Re-surface gravel driveways. Blow roofs and clean gutters. Pressure washing homes, decks, concrete walks, driveways, & boats. Install driveway curbing and sprinkler systems. Garden tilling. Other odd jobs around the house? You need it done! We will do it! Call John 673-7320 or mobile telephone 910-690-6491.

CREATIVE CUSTOMWORK – “The Decorator’s Workshop” Custom made Window Treatments, Bedding, Cushions, and Slipcovers. All made right here with the attention to detail demanded by the best designers! Pam Wasilewski, 336 MacDougall Drive, Seven Lakes. Call 673-2500.

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PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

TREE SERVICE — ALLEN & SONTREE SERVICE. Topping, trimming, complete removal, clean-up, insured, 24 hour service. Free estimates, senior citizen discounts. Call James M. Allen at 910-974-7629 (Home) or 910-572-6818 (Cell). *tfn 12/7*

ARCHITEXZ – Handyman services for all your home improvements. Minor or major repairs, drywall repairs, roofing repairs, remodeling, minor plumbing or electrical problems, master carpentry skills, design and drawing of house plans. Call today – (910)603-2131.

LOT CLEARING & CONSTRUCTION – Maintenance, hauling, bark, gravel, soil or removal of debris, erosion control. Call Dan Graham at 910-639-2111 or 910-673-3002.

SEVEN LAKES DENTAL STUDIO – Repairs of dentures, acrylic partials, and relines. Same day service available. All work will be

done only through your local dentist. Tom Wasilewski, 336 MacDougall Drive, Seven Lakes. 673-1613.

SEVEN LAKES HOME & PATIO – House and yard upkeep, pine straw & mulching, hedge trimming, power washing your house, gutter cleaning, painting. Seven Lakes North resident. Call Rich at 638-8081 or Lindsay 638-2387.



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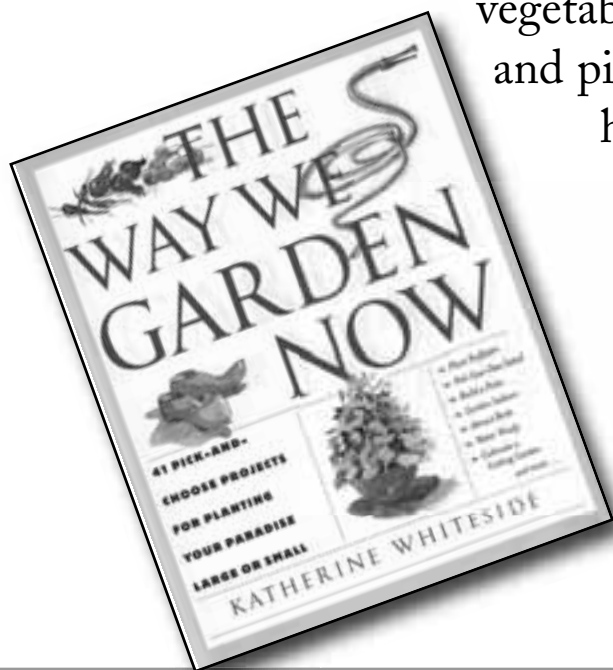


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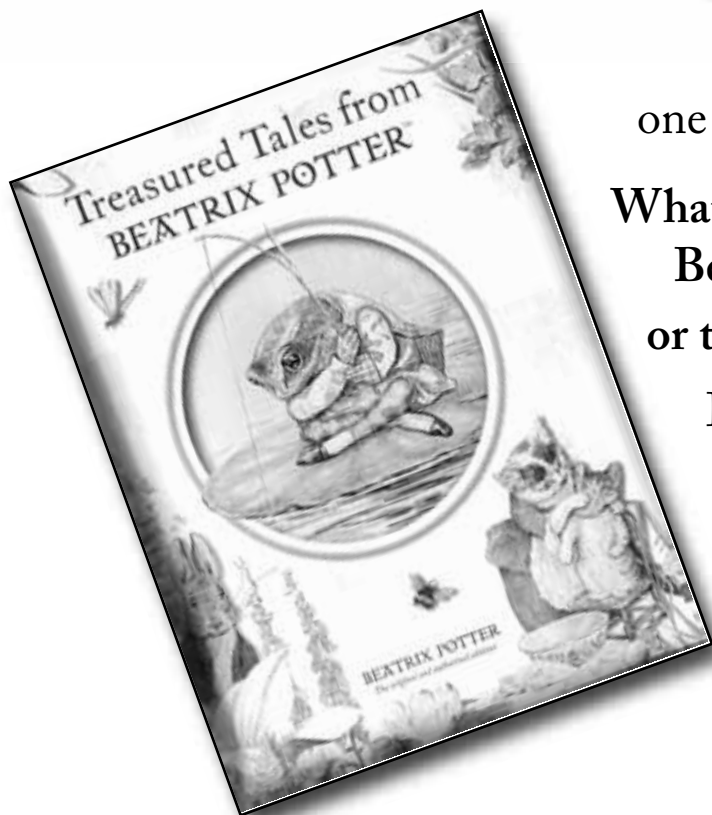
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